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Blair to hold ballot on manifesto

By Jill Sherman
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Party members asked for approval in attempt to curb dissidents

TONY BLAIR is to ballot every member of his party on his general election manifesto in an unprecedented move to prevent a Labour government running into internal trouble that could damage its chances of survival.

Mr Blair disclosed yesterday that all 365,000 members would be consulted next autumn in a referendum on a draft manifesto setting out Labour's priorities for the first years of government. The manifesto will then be fine-tuned in the weeks before the election.

The paper will not include detailed tax proposals — to be

unveiled just before a general election — but any spending pledges will be costed alongside plans to switch resources from existing programmes.

Mr Blair is determined to go into the campaign with a clear party mandate for the controversial policies he has introduced in his efforts to modernise the party. He hopes that mass support for the plans will bind the party together and protect him from damaging recriminations should he win power.

Previous Labour governments, including the Callaghan adminis-

tration after the winter of discontent in 1979, were brought down because they could not satisfy the demands of the unions and activists and Mr Blair is determined to prevent a repeat.

The referendum is one of the biggest consultation exercises ever mounted, mirroring last year's Clause Four ballot when Mr Blair won resounding backing for his plans to change the party's constitution.

Each member will be able to vote for or against the document, but there will be no provision to amend

its programme for government voted upon by its party members.

"This will give the party an opportunity actively to pledge their support for the Labour programme for government. It will nail forever any doubt that we are anything other than new Labour."

He was speaking at the launch of a document, *The Road to the Manifesto*, outlining the four main pillars on which policy will be built: economic opportunity in a world of increasing insecurity; a one-nation society with a reformed welfare state; political change with de-

veloped power and a modern constitution and leadership in Europe.

Over the past year Mr Blair has presided over a number of policy changes, including plans to withdraw benefit from workshy youngsters, a retreat from plans for a mandatory training levy and a softening of the party's opposition to grant-maintained schools and GP fundholding.

Many of these are to be detailed in separate policy papers, which will be culled in June to form the basis of the early manifesto draft that will go to the party conference

in October and the national ballot a few weeks later.

Leadership sources are confident that Mr Blair will get backing for the programme, but they are worried that there could be a low turnout in the referendum. They believe that at least 70 per cent of members need to take part, with a high vote in favour, for Mr Blair to be able to claim a mandate.

While a defeat is unlikely, some MPs expressed concern that the ballot will be on the combined policies, rather than individual proposals, which could prompt members to reject the package.

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Support for Tories firm in spite of BSE row

By Peter Riddell

SUPPORT for the Tories has held up in the first opinion poll published since the beef row erupted. But Labour and Tony Blair continue to enjoy their highest ratings since last July, according to the latest MORI poll for *The Times*.

The poll, undertaken between last Friday and this Monday, shows that the Tories are now on 28 per cent, two points higher than a month ago when the party was hit by the arguments over the Scott report. This is the same level as at the New Year. Fears over beef have not yet had an adverse impact on their ratings.

Support for Labour has been unchanged over the past month at 57 per cent, the highest level since July. Mr Blair's personal rating is also the highest since then. The public is satisfied with his performance by a two-to-one margin. Liberal Democrat support has slipped one point to 13 per cent, though Paddy Ashdown's personal rating remains positive.

MORI interviewed 1,910 adults face-to-face at 143 ward sampling points across Britain between March 22 to 25. Data were weighted to match the profile of the population. Voting intention figures exclude those who say they would not vote (9 per cent), are undecided (9 per cent) or who refuse to name a party (3 per cent).



Handbags away: New uniforms being modelled yesterday by sailors Penny Taylor and Neil Morris and below, the old-style bell-bottoms

Naval flare-up saves bell-bottoms

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

ROYAL Navy bell-bottom trousers have been saved by an outcry in the Senior Service that was so great female sailors will now wear them as well.

But the new rule means that for the first time, they will not be allowed to carry handbags.

After a review of all naval uniforms, female ratings — no longer officially called Wrens — will wear the same traditional flared trousers and square rig tops as their male counterparts.

The reprieve for bell-bottoms was ordered despite a decision by the naval review team to swap flares for straight trouser legs because it thought the wider bottoms smacked of 70s styles. However, sailors used as guinea pigs for the new uni-

forms said straight trousers looked too ordinary and demeaned their flares back.

Female ratings who currently wear a double-breasted jacket and either trousers or skirts, depending on whether they are aboard ship or ashore, will now wear the square rig outfit. It will be tailored to "fit the female form", according to Commander David Hobbs, who led the review. "And there will be no more handbags," he said.

Among other changes, officers are to be formally entitled to wear a kilt in the wardroom. The Scottish ancestry of Admiral Sir Jack Slater, the First Sea Lord, may have played a part in winning recognition for the kilt.

The Navy Board said the prac-

tice of wearing the kilt was "harmless, colourful and supported by several very senior officers".

Trials are also to be launched to replace the gold lace in officers' sleeves and on their caps with a synthetic material.

One item which was scrapped more than 20 years ago has been revived: a black silk scarf worn by naval gunners to absorb the sweat of battle is to be included in the new outfits. The silk scarves date back to 1540, but in a 1970 clothing review they were replaced by a pullover which had a silk facing in the collar.

Bell-bottoms were first worn in 1857 and survived despite fashion changes until the 1970s, when slightly more modest

flares were introduced.

The bell-bottoms were 20 inches wide, covering the boot and swinging in the wind as sailors came down the gangplank.

The new flared trouser will be 18-20 inches wide, which compares with the average civilian trouser of between 16 inches and 18 inches.

The old bell-bottoms were designed principally to enable the sailor to roll them up in the days when seamen scrubbed the decks in their bare feet. They were also easier to remove if a man fell overboard.

The concerning pleats also made it easy for seamen to fold their bell-bottoms neatly and stow them away.



Shepherd backs sixth-form exam reforms

By John O'Leary and David Charter

GILLIAN SHEPARD yesterday signalled the biggest shake-up in sixth-form study for more than 40 years when she ordered a tightening of A-level standards and introduced a qualifications framework linking vocational and academic courses.

Accepting a raft of recommendations from a year-long review by Sir Ron Dearing, the Education and Employment Secretary announced an eight-point programme of immediate action. Some reforms will be launched before the end of next year.

Among the innovations will be a national diploma encompassing academic and work-related qualifications, for which students will have to study at least four different courses. Higher-level vocational qualifications will be renamed Applied A Levels in an attempt to raise their status.

Labour said last night many of Sir Ron's proposals echoed its own plans for qualifica-

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'New-style' CJD case reported in France as beef ban is confirmed

By Ben Macintyre, Richard Owen, Philip Webster and Arthur Leatley

A FRENCH victim of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease may have died of the same strain of the illness as the British patients whose cases have been linked to "mad cow" disease, it was reported yesterday.

The deaths of five Italians from CJD were also disclosed for the first time yesterday and doctors said they believed that two others had been killed by the brain disorder.

France has about 50 cases of CJD each year, but the young victim in Lyons was the first to have shown the same new symptoms as the British cases, *Le Monde* reported. The patient, who has not been identified, was one of two people aged under 40 diagnosed with the disease this year, and tests were being

carried out to see if the circumstances of the death were identical to those linked with "mad cow" disease in Britain.

French government officials have hitherto maintained that no case of CJD in France could be linked to the new strain of the disease, but the scientists carrying out tests in the Lyons case refused to comment until the post-mortem examination was complete. French health officials insisted, however, that neither of the young patients was believed to have contracted CJD through eating beef.

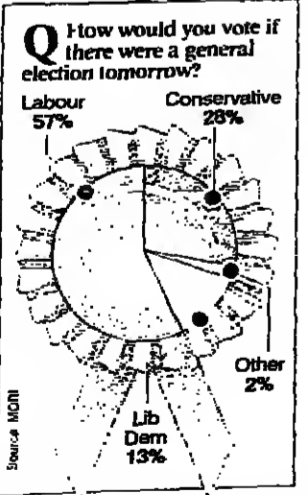
At least two of the Italian victims were older, but the cases came to light only because of the public alarm that has seen the meat market collapse. Supermarkets and

butchers said that beef sales were down by 30 per cent and still falling, and the head of the Italian Butchers' Federation accused the media of "information terrorism".

Leading importers praised the quality of British beef, veal and lamb and complained that Britain was being unfairly targeted. Others suggested that British beef was being smuggled across European borders with fraudulent Irish certificates.

Similar reports were circulating in France, where native meat is now tagged with red, white and blue flags declaring that it has been reared on vegetable feed. Merchants still reported a 30 per cent drop in sales and wholesalers said that orders had fallen by 60 per cent in spite of the unilateral boycott of British beef imposed by many countries last week and the formal export ban confirmed by the

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Chelsea MP admits drink-driving

Sir Nicholas Scott banned from road for leaving crash

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

SIR Nicholas Scott, the former Minister for the Disabled, was fined £450 and banned from driving for 12 months after he left an accident where a child's pushchair was trapped between cars. He was also ordered to pay prosecution costs of £450.

The Conservative MP for Chelsea was said to have emerged from the three-car shunt as if he were in a trance. Sir Nicholas, 62, drank up to three glasses of white wine when he made a speech at a party in his west London constituency before the accident.

Sir Nicholas admitted drink-driving but denied failing to stop after the accident in Sydney Street, Chelsea.

Roger Davies, supervisory magistrate at Horseferry Road Court, central London, found that the MP had failed to remain at the scene after driving his red Volvo into another parked Volvo which hit the buggy and trapped it against a Jaguar.

In the pushchair was Thibault Perreard, aged three years and eleven months, the son of a Swiss banker.

Yves Perreard, 37, who was with his wife, told the court that he shouted "stop, stop" and waved his arms at the car that caused the accident. After rescuing his son he was unable to find the driver. His son was crying. In attempting to free the boy from the trapped buggy he twisted his ankle.

Sir Nicholas said that he walked 400 yards to the local constituency association headquarters to telephone emergency services, leaving Patricia Sill-Johnstone, his secretary, to take care of

him. He did not leave his name with anybody because he assumed everyone knew who he was.

The magistrate interrupted the MPs' evidence to query why he had walked 400 yards to make his call when he could have stopped at a public telephone or at restaurants on the way.

Sir Nicholas failed to telephone from his headquarters because the building was closed. Without stopping at the scene of the accident, he then walked to the home of his doctor.

There he drank a glass of whisky offered to him while a call was made to police telling officers where he could be interviewed.

A blood test revealed 98 milligrams of alcohol to 100 millilitres of blood, the limit being 80 milligrams.

Dean Ramsey, a local resident who was taking a walk, said that when he knocked on the window of Sir Nicholas's

car he could get no response. "The defendant looked like somebody who had had too much to drink. He looked like he was about to go to sleep. His eyes were closing."

Michel Palmiera, a mechanic from east London who was driving past, told the court that a woman at the scene was verbally abusing people.

She allegedly called Mr Perreard "French scum" and asked the crowd that had gathered to disperse at once.

Sir Nicholas told the court that after returning from constituency headquarters he was on his way back to the scene of the accident but realised there was commotion and turmoil. A woman was shouting: "Lock him up, lock him up." He did not wish to inflame the crowd by returning.

"I thought it was better for me not to hang around, not least because of this woman's behaviour which was increasingly erratic," he said.

The magistrate told Sir Nicholas: "You had no idea at that stage of the damage that might have been caused to the cars or what possible harm might have occurred to the child. There was an obligation for you to remain on the spot for a period of time. That you failed to do."

Sir Nicholas, as Minister for the Disabled, had a public fallout with his daughter Victoria after he admitted he missed MPs when he denied that his department had been involved in tactics designed to kill the Disability Bill in 1994.

Victoria, a lobbyist for disabled rights, denounced her father and supported calls for him to resign.



Decorated masks donated to the Prince's Trust by the cartoonist Bill Tidy, top, Lord Healey, left, and the comedian Ruby Wax. Hundreds of celebrities were sent plain, white masks to decorate however they chose. A selection is on display at Olympia until tomorrow. The full collection will be auctioned in November

BBC wins deal for Potter's last film

By ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

A PREVIOUSLY unpublished film script by the late Dennis Potter is to be made into a film by the BBC with backing from Hollywood.

White Clouds is about a young Englishman living in Verona who kidnaps a young girl and demands a ransom but ends up killing her, despite falling in love with her. It is based on the novel *Caro Massimino*, by Tim Parks.

It had been thought that Potter's last unfinished works were *Karaoke* and *Cold Lazarus*, two four-part dramas he wrote for the BBC and Channel 4 shortly before his death from cancer in June 1994. However, the BBC confirmed yesterday that it was developing *White Clouds* in partnership with an unnamed American company. It will have a budget of £3.5 million and filming will begin in Italy in the autumn.

Potter's close friend and collaborator, Ken Trodd, who has produced *Karaoke* and *Cold Lazarus*, said that Potter completed the script for *White Clouds* before he became ill. "He gave it me to read. Although it is based on someone else's novel, Potter's stamp is very much on it. It is a very clever piece, reminiscent of *Brimstone and Treacle*."

Trodd was speaking at the launch of the BBC's spring and summer schedules, at which it was announced that *Karaoke* and *Cold Lazarus* would be screened by the BBC and Channel 4 in April and May. The season also includes a five-part documentary series, *Defence of the Realm*, about the Ministry of Defence.

Prince Edward's television company has won its first BBC commission, it was announced yesterday. Ardent Production's documentary *The Search for the Silver Arrow* is to be shown as a *Top Gear* special next month.

Pre-teen children fall prey to shape of fashion models

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

CHILDREN as young as 11 worry about the size and shape of their bodies and are alarmed that the changes taking place at puberty run counter to the dictates of fashion, according to a survey.

Half of girls and a third of boys are concerned about their body image, with twice as many girls as boys wanting to lose weight, the survey of 11 and 12-year-olds found. In many cases the desire for slimmer bodies was influenced by the images of fashion models.

The questionnaire survey, published yesterday by the Health Education Authority, was conducted among 530 pupils in three secondary schools. It found that many children undergoing puberty, especially girls, felt they were fat and were alarmed at the unexpected increase in weight.

Girls are particularly concerned about their legs and their stomachs. Many claimed they wanted to be slimmer for themselves, not because they cared about what others thought. One said: "I have photos of me when I was really skinny and dressed up and it really makes me sick to see that I have put on so much weight." The strategies adopted

Two wronged parties make a right for jilted minister

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A BAPTIST minister whose wife set up home with their gardener has decided to remarry — and has chosen the gardener's former wife. The Rev Dennis Mickelsen said that his bride, Joan Stannard, was, like him, a "wronged party".

Mr Mickelsen, who was last year evicted from his home after he refused to pay a divorce settlement, was devastated when his former wife Audrey, 69, walked out on their 41-year marriage and set up home with Peter Fisk, their gardener, in 1990.

The two couples were once great friends and used to go on drives and outings together. Mr Mickelsen will now marry Mrs Stannard, who was married to Mr Fisk for 42 years but reverted to her maiden name after her divorce, at his church in Sutton, Suffolk, where he has been pastor for 28 years.

Mr Mickelsen, 72, had said he was prepared to go to jail rather than pay a penny towards the £109,500 divorce settlement to his wife, with whom he had four children. He later obeyed a court order to pay his former wife £20,000, half the proceeds of the home, and £625 a month for five years. "I bear no animosity to any person on this earth including those who have wronged me. But although I sent letters and flowers to my wife after she left, I had no other communication with her apart from two chance meetings at a garage," Mr Mickelsen said.

"I waited and prayed for six years for her to come back. Then I felt in my heart that I could be happy with Joan who like me is also a wronged party. We feel a common bond of Christian faith which is the best union that there can be."

He added: "The Bible says that a marriage can only end if there has been unfaithfulness and there has in this case. Other ministers and people might think differently but I think there is a place for remarriage when the circumstances are genuine."

Mr Mickelsen said his marriage plans had met with "a favourable and happy" response from his congregation. Mrs Stannard said: "I am very happy to be with Dennis. Our lives will be full again. We have been friends for a long time but we only got serious recently."

The couple plan to live in Mrs Stannard's sheltered accommodation flat in Woodbridge. Their former partners have not married but live 12 miles away at Otley, near Ipswich.



Peter Fisk with Mr Mickelsen's former wife, Audrey

Money for wrongful arrest 'ridiculous'

By ADRIAN LEE

A WOMAN who was ordered out of her sickbed and wrongly arrested over two unpaid parking fines described an offer of £150 compensation as "ridiculous yesterday."

Caroline Coupland had reported her car stolen at the time the penalties were incurred. But she was told by a police officer that if she did not get dressed and accompany him to court she would be handcuffed.

The mistake was blamed on lost documents and Ms Coupland, 31, of Ash, Surrey, was offered the compensation by Hampshire Magistrates' Court Committee as a "gesture of goodwill". She was told that magistrates, who issued an arrest warrant, have immunity in such cases against claims of false arrest.

Ms Coupland, who suffers from asthma, had just been released from hospital when the officer arrived with a warrant from Aldershot magistrates.

She said: "When I was eventually brought before the court I couldn't stand up. I was still holding my nebuliser mask to my face. I nearly passed out."

Lincoln's burghers offer sanctuary to outlawed Robin

By ANDREW PIERCE

LINCOLN has offered a new home to Robin Hood, who faces being outlawed from Nottingham because he is out of date. Civic chiefs in Lincoln are planning to promote its historic links with the enduring hero of British folk history.

Lincoln green, the cloth said to have been worn by Robin and his Merry Men, was woven and dyed in the city. His celebrated robberies of the rich to benefit the poor were conducted, says Lincoln City Council, on the nearby Fosse Way.

More controversially, the city supports the theory advocated by a group of historians that he was not Robin of Loxley, a miller's son, but related to the De Kyme family, which hailed from Lincoln, some 35 miles from Nottingham. Lincoln Cathedral also boasts a medieval manuscript that documents the first connection between Robin and Sherwood Forest.

Geoffrey Ellis, the mayor of Lincoln, said: "We will take full advantage of promoting our connection with the outlaw."

"If Nottingham does not want him, we certainly do. We will support Robin Hood in every way." But Lincoln will not secure Robin Hood's services without a fight. Only days after the plan to design a new symbol for Nottingham came to light, Robin Hood, alias actor Tim Pollard, was the main attraction at the city's stand at the British trade fair in Birmingham.

Margaret Tilsion, Nottingham's tourism promotions officer, was agitated at the prospect of playing down links with Robin Hood. She said: "We would not dream of dropping him, as he is so well known worldwide." Mark Alexander, executive director of Nottingham's conference bureau, said that no firm decision had been taken about the outlaw. "A marketing partnership is now looking at an image for Nottingham that would appeal across the board."

Mr Pollard, dressed in a Lincoln green tunic, said: "I hear that some people think Robin Hood is a bit of a soft image for the city. For a person to be thrown aside for having a reputation for being fair, just and honest seems to me to be daft."

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LEGOLAND WINDSOR

Charity chiefs warn RSPCA to tone down experiments protest

By Andrew Pierce

THE RSPCA has been told by the Charity Commissioners not to campaign against animal experiments that are considered to be of benefit to mankind. The campaign against the British-financed use of chimpanzees in vivisection in Holland is one of the first casualties of the ruling. The society is re-examining its opposition to the use of primates in experiments and two publications that set out ethical arguments for animal

■ Accusations that the RSCPA had sold its soul to the animal rights movement added to controversy surrounding the organisation

"rights" are also being reviewed.

Some members of the RSPCA ruling council claim that the organisation's campaigning activities will now have to be toned down and restricted to the welfare of animals. Field sports supporters and landowners may now

legally challenge the society's opposition to hunting on the grounds that the destruction of the fox can be beneficial.

In a recent letter, Richard Fries, the Chief Charity Commissioner, told the RSPCA that the organisation would be behaving in a way which was "inconsistent with its charita-

ble status" if it argued that the infliction of pain on animals could not be justified if it was for the good of man.

The charity commission intervened after an article by Michael Sissons, a leading London literary agent, in *Country Life* last November. The commission instructed the RSPCA to respond to criticisms that the society had "surrendered its soul to the animal rights lobby".

Membership has halved to 26,000 in the past 20 years after a series of controversial

moves by the society, including setting out a "declaration of animal rights", attempts to encourage members to become vegetarians, opposition to hunting and the rejection of membership applications from field sports supporters. The charity has published booklets which set out detailed ethical arguments for so-called animal rights, to the annoyance of members who say it has moved away from its animal welfare work.

Angela Walder, a member of the RSPCA council, when

told about the commission ruling, said: "The Charity Commissioners should go to hell." Ms Walder, a vegan, is one of the targets of the society's critics. She has several arrests for public order offences and was expelled from the movement in 1988 for bringing the society into disrepute. She challenged her expulsion in the High Court in 1994, was reinstated and in 1994 was elected to the society's ruling council.

Sir David Steel, founder of the Countryside Movement

pressure group, said last night: "The commission has told the RSPCA to watch it. A vociferous but effective minority has been engaged in assiduous campaigning for animal rights which offends millions of ordinary countryside lovers. I hope this intervention by the commissioners will reverse an alarming trend. The RSPCA has moved alarmingly away from charity work and into the political arena. It should stick to what it is best at: animal welfare."

A commission spokesman

confirmed that the work of the charity had been kept closely under review but that it had not breached its charitable scope. "There seems to be considerable scope for the RSPCA to continue to campaign against cruelty in cases where that cruelty cannot be justified by a greater benefit conferred on mankind."

A spokeswoman for the RSPCA said: "We have been given a clear bill of health by the commission. We are reviewing our opposition to experiments on primates."

No evidence offered after prosecution weighs up emotional costs of case



Rachel Heath, who was accused of giving poison to her elderly client

Home help cleared of trying to murder cancer sufferer

By Dominic Kennedy
SOCIAL AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

A HOME HELP accused of attempting to murder an elderly cancer sufferer had her case dismissed yesterday after a judge said he would pass only a light sentence if she were convicted.

Rachel Heath, 31, was also charged with administering diamorphine, a poison, to endanger the life or inflict grievous bodily harm to 71-year-old Kathleen Corfield.

Ms Heath was a home help and carer for Mrs Corfield, a retired civil servant who had lived in a semi-detached house in Shirley, Southampton, for nearly 30 years. Mrs Corfield, a widow, had terminal cancer of the lung and throat. She had been in Southampton General Hospital for two weeks when she suddenly fell ill in December 1994. The police were called but she died shortly after their arrival.

Ms Heath had denied attempted murder and poisoning. After discussions in chambers at Winchester Crown Court, the Crown Prosecution Service decided to offer no evidence. Ms Heath, of Woolston, Southampton, wept and hugged friends after the judge, Mr Justice Ognall, dismissed the case. Philip Mott, QC, for the prosecution,



Kathleen Corfield: her cancer was terminal

told the court: "Even if the case passes the evidential test, the Crown prosecutors must decide that the prosecution is necessary in the public interest."

"The change in decision is not caused by any reassessment of the evidence. The view was taken that the case was fit for the decision of the jury." Mr Mott said that, in the public interest, however, the likely sentence should be borne in mind. "If the court is likely to impose a very small or nominal penalty, it is a major factor against prosecution in a trial that may take a long time."

"In this case it would have been five days, involving witnesses with emotional involvement and an emotional

experience for the defendant herself.

"In a case such as this, where the issues go beyond the strictly legal into greater emotive significance, it is not always an easy assessment. Your lordship has very kindly made certain views known about your assessment of the evidence. Even if we prove what is set out, those views must go into the balance and cause a reconsideration of the public interest."

The decision not to continue with the prosecution had been made at a high level within the Crown Prosecution Service, Mr Mott said. He added that there was an additional advantage to the decision: there could be confidence that prosecutions would not be continued simply to take the easy way out and to avoid criticism.

Mr Justice Ognall said that "in the very unusual circumstances" of this case, he was satisfied that had Ms Heath been convicted she would have received a "very small or nominal penalty".

The judge added: "The investigating and prosecution agencies should not be faulted for bringing the matter this far. They would have been failing in their duty if they had done any less. The Crown Prosecution Service has clearly acted responsibly and correctly."



The basilisk lizard, which rarely gets its feet wet

How lizards walk on water with the greatest of ease

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

THE mystery of how the basilisk lizard runs on water has been solved by two American scientists.

By taking high-speed photographs they have shown that the feat is achieved by extreme speed and dexterity, combined with a power output that is, weight for weight, 15 times greater than human beings can manage.

Basilisk lizards and some shore birds can make rapid progress across water by repeatedly striking the surface with their feet. In the case of the lizards, say Dr Jim Glasheen and Dr Thomas McMahon of Harvard University in *Nature*, the rear feet, driven by powerfully muscled legs, do the work while the lizard stands almost upright.

On each stroke the foot first slaps the water, then drives downwards through it and is finally swiftly withdrawn as the other foot slaps down. The slap produces virtually

little lift, but the downward stroke does.

As the foot goes through the water it creates a cavity of air. The secret is to remove the foot before the cavity collapses. The high-speed film shows that the downward push takes 44 milliseconds, while withdrawing the foot takes 68 milliseconds—so fast that the water does not have time to fill the cavity created by the downward stroke.

The scientists calculate that the power required is 29 watts per kilogram of bodyweight, well within the capacity of the lizard, whose muscles can produce 135 watts per kilogram. The best human beings can do is 20 watts per kg. And a man weighing 15 stone and striking the water with his bare feet would need to move them through the water at a speed of more than 60 miles an hour. The fastest human recorded is Carl Lewis, at 26.95mph.

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Lost evidence that could have saved three lives

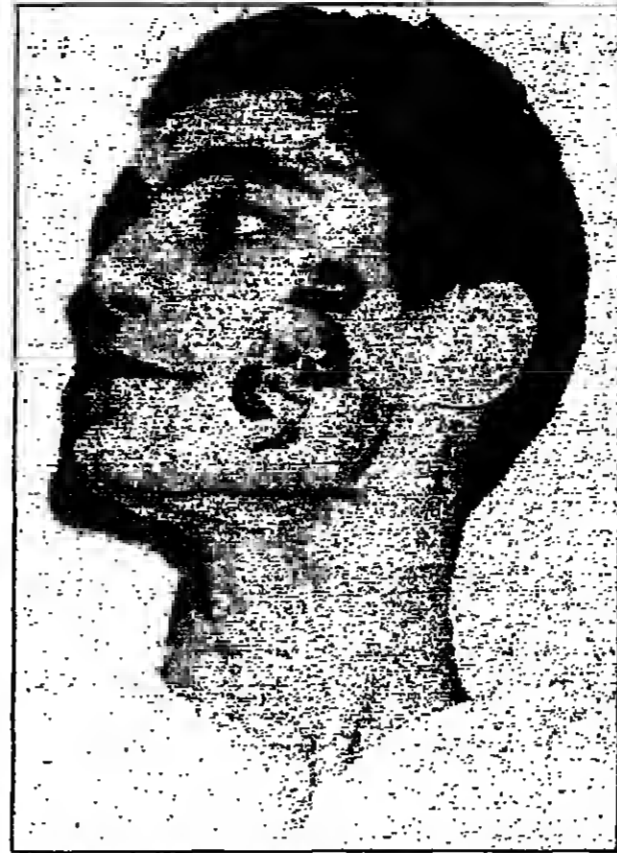
By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A MENTAL patient with known homicidal tendencies was allowed back into the community where he killed his father and two pensioners, an inquiry found yesterday.

ly disturbed teenager who believed that television sets talked to him. These records failed to follow him through his next five years of courts and hospitals.

clinicians and other staff. The following year, Mitchell applied for discharge. In 1993 he was transferred to St Clements Hospital in Ipswich, nearer his father's home.

killing and eating a younger victim. After being arrested for murder, he appeared ecstatic and sang *It's a Wonderful Life* in his cell. Diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia, Mitchell was given three life sentences last July and is at Rampton Hospital.



Jason Mitchell persuaded a tribunal he was sane

Mental health inquiries dismissed as worthless

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

INQUIRIES into mental health blunders such as the Jason Mitchell killings are mostly a waste of time, according to an expert who chairs them. They nearly always reach the same conclusions, nothing is changed, nobody is sacked and they may make matters worse, according to Dr Matt Muijen. About 40 such inquiries are under way at any time.

Health in London, was able to correctly predict the outcome of yesterday's inquiry by Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, QC. "These inquiries invariably come up with very unoriginal findings," he said. "We know the conclusions... poor communication between agencies, lack of leadership, lack of resources."

inquiry into the suicides of three men with mental health problems who lived in the community in Southampton. "Inquiry reports, including my one, come up with these findings but they are rarely taken further. You invariably find that some mistakes have been made some years earlier. What tends to happen is that the health authority reads the report, thinks about it, considers whether it can allocate more resources and often can't."

dismissed or sacked. I remember one case where a senior manager was moved sideways but everybody already knew that person couldn't do the job."

frightened out of their mind." Although Health Department officials are privately worried about the inquiry system, campaigning groups tend to encourage it. Dr Muijen said: "If your whole organisation is concerned with saying that community care is flawed, this is helpful because it gives you ammunition all the time."

Nuclear plant hails report

Child leukaemia 'unlikely' to be Sellafield's fault

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE Sellafield nuclear plant in Cumbria is very unlikely to have caused a leukaemia cluster among children in nearby Seascale, a government committee has concluded.

cause, then Seascale may have been affected because of a sewage outflow from Sellafield which discharged directly into the River Ehen and flowed out to sea less than a mile from the Seascale beach.

The report says that the high incidence of leukaemia and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in young people in Seascale between 1963 and 1992 was "highly unlikely to be due to chance" but that "no one factor could account for the increase".

Radiation levels were "far too small" to account for the cases on the basis of present knowledge. Nor is it clear how only the children of Seascale fathers and not those who lived elsewhere could be affected.

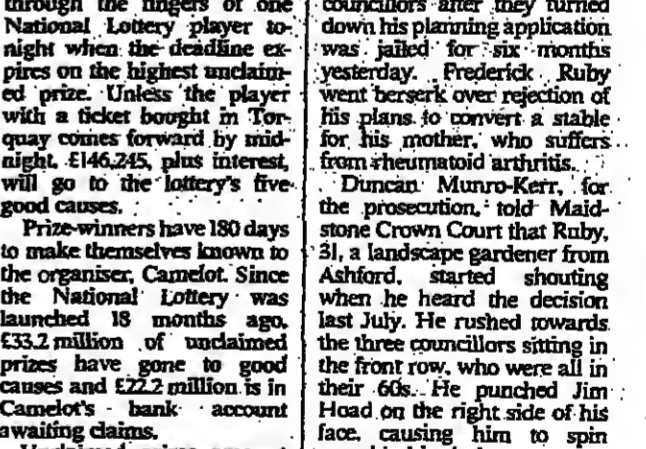
Professor Bridges added: "Only time will tell. We need to know a lot more about childhood leukaemia. Only then will we be able to go back and then we will be able to understand the true scale of the Seascale case."

British Nuclear Fuels welcomed the finding that occupational exposure to radiation was very unlikely to account for the excess of leukaemias in Seascale. David Young, BNFL spokesman, said: "We are pleased that at last the spectre that radiation has caused these problems has been lifted from us."

"But we have always felt that to blame these problems on radiation was a bit simplistic."

Janine Allis-Smith, whose son Lee was diagnosed with leukaemia in 1984 at the age of 12, said the report was inconclusive and she was still convinced his illness was caused by radioactive waste from the Sellafield plant.

Professor Bridges speculated that if infection was the



Sellafield power station on the Cumbrian coast

£146,000 lottery prize goes unclaimed

By ADRIAN LEE

A SMALL fortune will slip through the fingers of one National Lottery player tonight when the deadline expires on the highest unclaimed prize. Unless the player with a ticket bought in Torquay comes forward by midnight, £146,245, plus interest, will go to the lottery's five-good causes.

Prize-winners have 180 days to make themselves known to the organisers, Camelot. Since the National Lottery was launched 18 months ago, £33.2 million of unclaimed prizes have gone to good causes and £22.2 million is in Camelot's bank account awaiting claims.

Unclaimed prizes amount to 1 to 2 per cent of the £2.1 billion paid to winners. Camelot said: "It is terrible that someone could miss out on such a huge prize. It might not be a million but it is the sort of sum which could transform someone's life."

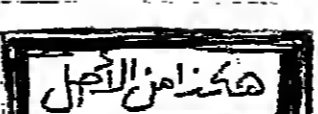
The ticket was bought for the draw on September 30 last year, when the numbers were 10, 11, 29, 32, 33, 40 and the bonus was 16. There was one jackpot winner, who claimed £9.9 million. The holder of the missing ticket chose five correct numbers plus the bonus.

Other prizes waiting to be claimed include: £104,746 from the Redhill area of Surrey (January 6 draw); £109,892 from Liverpool (December 16) and £78,970 from Newport, Gwent (February 3).

All the jackpot winners have come forward within a month, although one left his ticket in the pocket of his jeans, where it was discovered on wash day. A player holding a ticket worth £342,000 waited five months. The ticket-holder was aware he or she had won but was very casual about it," Camelot said.

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MARCH 28 1996
plant hails report

leukaemia 'likely' to be field's fault

SCIENCE EDITOR

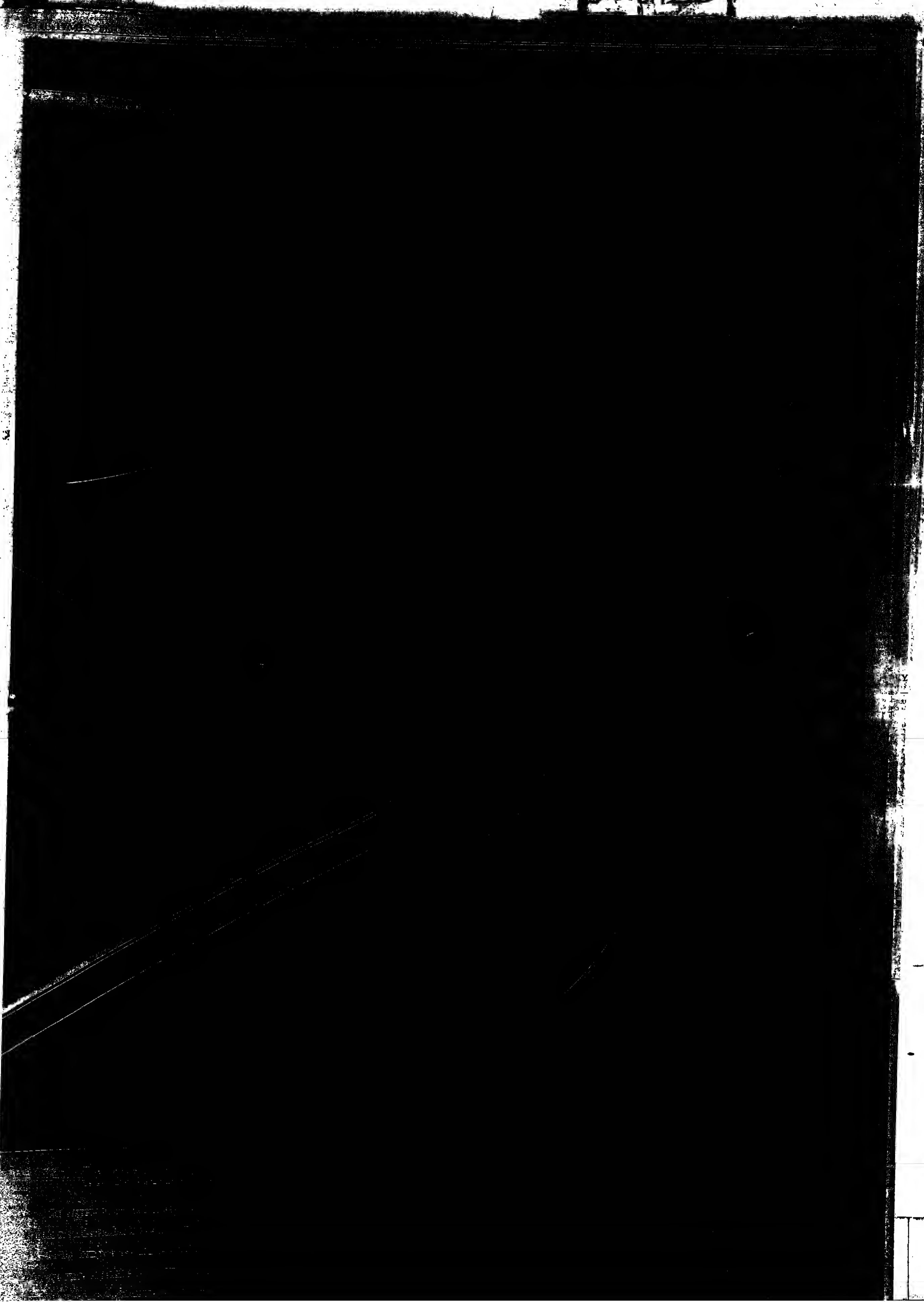
The Science Editor of the New York Times has written a report on the link between radiation and leukemia. The report states that the link is likely to be the fault of the field. The report also mentions that the link is likely to be the fault of the field.



Gardner jailed for assault at court

The Science Editor of the New York Times has written a report on the link between radiation and leukemia. The report states that the link is likely to be the fault of the field. The report also mentions that the link is likely to be the fault of the field.

JP 1152



SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



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Clarke thwarts Cabinet debate on referendum

BY NICHOLAS WOOD AND JAMES LANDALE

KENNETH CLARKE has blocked today's Cabinet meeting from resolving the impasse over a referendum on a single currency. It is understood that the Chancellor has told John Major that he believes that Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, should be present if ministers are to decide an issue of such magnitude.

Mr Rifkind is accompanying the Queen on a state visit to Eastern Europe and will not return to Britain until after joining Mr Major in Turin on Friday for the opening of the inter-governmental conference on the European Union.

The Foreign Secretary has produced a paper on the implications of a referendum, such as collective responsibility and timing. Mr Clarke believes that he should be at the Cabinet table to contribute to the debate. It is understood the Foreign Office was prepared to field a junior minister if the Prime Minister had wanted to press ahead today.

Mr Major, who has been fully occupied this week with the beef crisis, is understood to have agreed to defer a decision. He initially wanted to announce a referendum commitment at the Conservative Central Council in Harrogate

on Saturday. The delay means a decision will be postponed until next week or after Easter.

Mr Clarke's insistence on a "serious discussion" in Cabinet is being taken at Westminster as another sign of his determination to press his case that a referendum on a single currency would be a mistake.

Yesterday Mr Major came under pressure from the Tory party faithful to oppose a single European currency as they demanded a clear right-wing agenda for the next election. As he prepared to travel to Turin tomorrow, they expressed their hostility to further European integration.

In the biggest such survey, 30,000 Tories across the country last autumn demanded the reform of Europe's agriculture and fisheries policies and a curb on the powers of the European Court of Justice. They called for tax and welfare cuts, a boost to home ownership, fresh support for the family and a return of British heroes such as Drake, Nelson and Churchill to school history lessons.

The Prime Minister ordered the survey last May to give grassroots members the chance to help to shape poli-

cies for the next election. *Our Nation's Future*, published yesterday, will be fed into the Downing Street Policy Unit and Cabinet committees drawing up the manifesto.

Although the party faithful said that Britain should remain a member of the European Union, they opposed further loss of British sovereignty. "There is common agreement that any move toward a 'United States of Europe' should be resisted fiercely and a clear view that no more powers should be transferred to Brussels," the report said.

"The single currency was a topic of serious debate in the constituencies. The majority of participants were sceptical about the benefits." However, they were divided over holding a referendum. Some argued that one was vital to decide constitutional issues. Others said a referendum was not needed because there were no circumstances in which a Tory government should take Britain into a single currency.

Although Dr Brian Mahwinney, the party chairman, made clear that the survey was not a manifesto blueprint, he said that it showed the membership to be broadly in tune with the party leadership.

MP hails press body's verdict

BY NICHOLAS WOOD
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A PRESS watchdog yesterday rebuked *The Sunday Times* for its methods in the "cash for questions" affair last year that led to two Tory MPs being suspended from the Commons for two weeks.

The Press Complaints Commission reversed its previous finding that the newspaper had been entitled to use subterfuge to test MPs' reactions to the offer of £1,000 for a Commons question. In 1994 a reporter posed as a businessman to approach 20 MPs. The article that followed led to the Nolan clampdown on MPs' outside earnings.

The commission said that *The Sunday Times* did not first gather enough hard information that an issue of serious public interest was at stake, the ground on which newspapers' Code of Practice allows the use of subterfuge.

One of the suspended MPs, Graham Riddick, yesterday claimed the new ruling vindicated him. He and his supporters on the Conservative benches said they would be appealing to the Commons Standards and Privileges Committee to reopen its inquiry into the conduct of the Colne Valley MP. Mr Riddick added that the commission had apologised for failing to take evidence from him before reaching its original verdict.

But John Witherow, editor of *The Sunday Times*, rejected Mr Riddick's interpretation of the commission's new findings set out in a letter from Lord Wakeham, its chairman, to Tony Newton, the Leader of the Commons. Mr Witherow said the statement was a fudge making



only trivial concessions to the MP and that the commission had also found that, through its inquiry, the newspaper had "turned the spotlight on an area in which parliamentary procedures were open to abuse, raising an issue of serious public interest."

Mr Riddick said: "This adjudication exonerates my behaviour and restores my good name." He said the commission had ruled that *The Sunday Times* should have told its readers that its journalist, when posing as a businessman, discussed a perfectly legitimate paid consultancy with me during two substantive conversations. This proves that I did not accept cash for asking questions."

Labour candidate ordered to quit

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A LABOUR parliamentary candidate who admits having taken part in terrorist activity in South Africa has been ordered to step down by the party's ruling body.

The National Executive Committee (NEC) has told John Lloyd, who was chosen by Labour to fight Exeter at the general election, that it will rescind his endorsement as candidate if he refuses to go.

In the early 1960s Mr Lloyd, now 54, was a member of the African Resistance Movement, which bombed targets such as electricity pylons and radio masts. He has also been accused of betraying John Harris, a fellow conspirator who was executed for planting a bomb at Johannesburg railway station that killed one person in 1964.

An NEC panel, which had been set up to look at his candidature in detail, agreed that Mr Lloyd had misled both the NEC and Tom Sawyer, Labour's general secretary. It concluded that "Mr Lloyd's lack of openness had undermined his position as a candidate."

Mr Lloyd said he was disappointed at the decision. He has no right of appeal. The local party executive will meet next Tuesday to discuss the selection of a new candidate.

Relatives of Mr Harris had written to the NEC complaining about Labour's selection of Mr Lloyd as its candidate. Mr Lloyd claims that he has been the victim of a "personal vendetta" by Mr Harris's son, David Wolfe, who is a barrister in the same chambers as Tony Blair's wife, Cherie.

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Brussels confirms ban but offers conditional aid

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

THE European Union confirmed its worldwide ban on the export of British beef and its by-products yesterday but offered financial help for British farmers provided that the Government came up with further measures to eradicate "mad cow" disease.

Britain's two EU Commissioners joined the 18 other members of the Brussels executive in ratifying the decision of EU national officials to declare a global embargo on any beef leaving Britain for human consumption, whether as meat or in products such as confectionary, medicine or lipstick. Milk and other dairy products were not affected. No member state has ever been forced by fellow EU members to take such action against its own wishes.

Franz Fischler, the EU farm commissioner, said the confirmed ban was vital to restore confidence. It was futile to talk about scientific fact or evidence, he said. However, Herr Fischler added: "These measures are not set in stone forever. They will apply until the necessary steps are taken [by Britain]." The Veterinary Committee which voted the measures on Monday would be convened again in six weeks.

The comments, made in a speech to the European Parliament, reflected the anger in the Commission and in other member states towards what is seen as the Government's mishandling of the emergency. Herr Fischler complained that the Commission, which is responsible for managing agriculture in the EU, had been given only half an hour's warning ahead of the announcement last week in the House of Commons. Last weekend he wrote a strong letter of complaint to Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister.

The battle of wits pitting Britain against the Commission and the EU's national



Fischler: seeking to protect other states



farm authorities has cast a shadow over tomorrow's one-day summit of EU leaders in Turin to launch the inter-governmental conference revising the Maastricht treaty. Under the ban, Britain must report every fortnight on progress in tackling BSE, and a committee would be set up under Professor Charles Weissmann, a prominent Swiss specialist in BSE, to monitor the situation. The Commission urged Britain to take further steps: officials said this meant that the Government was expected to order the slaughter of cattle as quickly as possible.

Farmer's fury

A French farmer whose herd of 110 cattle is to be slaughtered after one of his cows was found to have BSE grabbed a British reporter by the hair yesterday when asked how he felt. "You English bastard, you give my cows BSE then you want to know how I feel," he belted. Georges Hourman, who farms at Plourac'h, Brittany, claims that his cows were infected by feed imported from Britain.

take action to lighten the financial burden on British producers. The Commission would "consider any means of assisting the UK in either a technical and/or financial way on the basis of a UK proposal," it said. Farmers would also benefit from the EU's market support mechanisms. This was the first confirmation that British beef slaughtered to eradicate BSE would qualify for the subsidies paid through the common agricultural policy to maintain beef prices.

Commission officials said special measures would be necessary to transfer funds for compensating Britain from the Union's coffers. Only about £55 million is allocated for disease eradication and this has been exhausted.

Sir Leon Brittan, one of the British Commissioners, won the agreement from the Commission to make available EU funds for compensation in return for approving the ban along with his colleagues, officials said. Sir Leon drafted the text committing the commission to recommending the use of union resources once a package of measures had been agreed with the British Government.

Herr Fischler said: "It is not our objective to isolate the United Kingdom for as long as possible. These are emergency measures that will last as long as necessary."

Herr Fischler said the chief aim at the moment was to prevent a market collapse in other member states. Controls would be strictly enforced, although this would not go as far as confiscating lipsticks from travellers crossing the Channel. Commission officials would visit the UK to inspect the eradication programme, he continued. The ban would be maintained as long as a threat remained.

William Rees-Mogg, page 20
Letters, page 21



Dorothy Churchill and her son Stephen, who died from Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease

Victim's family demand an apology from Dorrell

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE
CORRESPONDENT

THE family of Stephen Churchill, who died last year from a brain condition since linked to "mad cow" disease, have written to the Health Secretary to express their shock at remarks he made in a radio programme.

Dorothy and David Churchill, Stephen's parents, and his sister Helen, 21, told Stephen Dorrell: "It is with an overpowering sense of disgust that we are forced to write to you regarding your offensive remarks made publicly. That you should have the effrontery to query that the British public are going mad, rather than the cows, must rate as your most crass statement ever. We demand a public

apology for the offence caused and reiterate our calls for a public and independent inquiry into these matters."

Mr Dorrell made the remarks during an appearance on Calf Nick Ross on BBC Radio 4 on Tuesday, in response to a barrage of criticism from callers, many of them mothers of young children.

He said: "I agree with *The Sun* this morning, which says it isn't the cows that are mad, it's the people. What the people have to do, what all of us have to do, is step back from the hysteria and believe the facts."

Mrs Churchill, from Devizes, Wiltshire, said yesterday: "Words failed me

when I heard that. We were all deeply shocked by it, as were all of our friends and neighbours."

A statement issued last night by the Department of Health said: "Mr Dorrell has great sympathy for Stephen Churchill's parents. He was replying to a query about the point that he agreed with *The Sun* that public hysteria about the possible link between BSE and CJD was out of all proportion to the risk and the scientific evidence."

Stephen Churchill died on May 21 last year, a month after his nineteenth birthday. Scientists have since identified him as one of ten victims of a new strain of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease likely to have been caused by eating meat infected with BSE.

Ministers face questions from all sides over BSE policy

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS and their advisers faced four hours of questioning from MPs yesterday on the background and implications of the BSE scare.

The Commons Agriculture and Health Select Committee called Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, and Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, to give details of government policy. Also among the witnesses were Keith Meldrum, the Chief Veterinary Officer, and Professor John Pattison, chairman of Seac, the BSE advisory committee. The following are some of the exchanges.

At the start Mr Dorrell said: "Yesterday the argument moved on. The best available evidence demonstrates that British beef and beef products can be safely eaten both here and around the world. The issue is no longer a question of the safety of British beef. The question now is a matter of consumer confidence."

Edward Leigh, Tory MP and a member of the agriculture committee: "We are faced with a crisis of confidence in a great British industry. What policy options is the Government considering? What is the cost and what is the purpose of such policies? We have had various proposals, but not what seems to be a very sensible one of dairy cows coming to the end of their lives being bought by the Government."

Mr Hogg: "There is no recommendation from Seac for any kind of policy which involves slaughter. Seac haven't recommended that we take out of the human food chain the older cow."

"The core of National Farmers' Union proposals is that 30-month-old cows should not enter the food chain. Seac has considered the question of the older cow and recommended that... the older cow can be sold into the food chain but in a deboned state. That is where

the scientific evidence and recommendations rests."

Sir Jerry Wiggin, Tory chairman of the agriculture committee, asked Professor Pattison: "Would you not agree that the likelihood of BSE-infected food appearing on the dinner plate is as near zero as is humanly possible?"

Professor Pattison: "I believe that is now the case."

David Congdon, Tory member of the health committee: "Can't anyone make some sort of assessment as to what 'extremely low' [risk] is? Is it one in a million, one in ten million?"

Professor Pattison: "Everyone in the land would be grateful if we could put a figure of one in 100 million on it. If you have a small risk it can actually multiply up to a large number of cases... if everyone in the country ate an average amount of beef you might not get one case."

John Marshall, Tory member of the health committee: "Is there not a danger of a British industry being sold down the river by individuals who pretend there is a problem in Britain and no problem anywhere else in the world?"

Keith Meldrum: "The extent to which there is under-reporting is hard to determine. It is fair to say that the problem in the UK is significantly greater than in other countries."

Dale Campbell-Savours, Labour member of the agriculture committee, referred to withdrawal of public money from a scientist researching BSE: "There has been an effective attempt to undermine work that was being done, because it didn't suit ministers."

Mr Dorrell: "It is a grotesque misrepresentation of the Government's position to suggest that the Department of Health should not be interested in pursuing any course that is going to deliver better understanding of a threat to human health."

St Michael FOODS

Ginger, red onions, crushed garlic, yoghurt, (there's more), pineapple juice and lemon juice create an marinade. It coats then flame seared. accompanied by sweet, a light mayonnaise, some Greek style yoghurt, a hint of mint and a dash of How do we do it

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'Pre-eminence of A levels has led to expansion beyond the purpose for which they were created'

Dearing calls for tougher exams to stretch high flyers

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

STANDARDS

HIGH-FLYING students will be encouraged to take revitalised S levels, or even parts of university courses, under Sir Ron Dearing's plans to stretch sixth-formers.

Sir Ron's *Review of Qualifications for 16 to 19-year-olds* calls for A levels to be made more difficult in a range of subjects, including English and business studies. Independent research had shown standards were uneven and "levelling up" should take place over a five-year period.

Examination boards will be required to monitor standards over time. Restrictions will be placed on the development of modular A levels, which have shown significantly higher pass rates than traditional examination-based courses.

Those who still find A level pitched below their natural ability will be offered Special Papers (S levels) or units from degree courses. S levels have been in decline for many years because they do not count towards university entrance.

Sir Ron proposes that revamped Special Papers should be based on A-level syllabuses, testing students to a higher standard. An alternative would be to set high flyers extended assignments, requiring research or in-depth exploration of a topic.

Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Sec-

retary, asked Sir Ron to ensure that the rigour of A levels was maintained when she commissioned his inquiry almost a year ago. His report says that changes within subjects and a shortage of archive material make it difficult to pronounce accurately on claims that standards have been slipping in recent years.

He says that, as the Government's academic "gold standard", A levels have stood the test of time. But the examination was established 45 years ago to select an elite for higher education, and too many students not suited to academic study were now starting courses and dropping out.

"The historic pre-eminence of A levels has led to their expansion beyond the purpose for which they were created," his report says. The new examinations structure should encourage many students to take applied or vocational courses instead.

Sir Ron sees the proliferation of A-level syllabuses as a possible threat to standards, as schools switch between examination boards to find the easiest. Decisions for schools and colleges to change boards should be taken by heads and principals under formal procedures and regulatory bodies should encourage a reduction in the number of syllabuses.

Students taking modular

courses, who are able to improve their grades by re-sitting examinations, should be limited in the number of times they can retake units. Final examinations should account for a minimum of 30 per cent of the marks.

In the future, traditional and modular A levels could be unified, with "final" exams covering the whole of a two-year course.

Sir Ron acknowledged that particular concerns have been raised about the drop in mathematics and science entries at A level. Academics have complained that A-level mathematics now leaves out so many "difficult" topics that they have to give many new undergraduates remedial lessons.

The report recommends new GCSE additional mathematics courses to narrow the gap to A level. Government regulatory bodies should consult examining boards about enlarging the mandatory core of both science and mathematics A levels, so that more topics would be covered by every student.

Education, page 17
Leading article, page 21



A-level students at work yesterday at 'Tiffin girls' school in Kingston upon Thames

Vocational study could ease plight of disaffected

By DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

LOW ACHIEVERS

THOUSANDS of teenagers failing to achieve the lowest level of academic success at school should try vocational study in a college or the workplace, yesterday's report recommended.

Sir Ron Dearing, who left school at 16 with few qualifications, has been particularly struck by the plight of the thousands who leave school unqualified and disaffected every year. He said school should remain the centre of education up to the age of 16 but from 14 the disenchanted and other low achievers should have regular sessions in different environments to see if they can be motivated.

Sir Ron said it was a matter of national concern that more than 40,000 16-year-olds, 8 per cent of the year group, leave school every year without the lowest academic qualification to their name, a grade G at GCSE. In 1994, nearly 80,000 in English and 90,000 in mathematics did not get a grade G, the level expected of the average 11-year-old.

His proposed new structure of National Levels embracing all qualifications represents the three existing tiers but adds a foothold for those not recording any success. Sir Ron

rejected extending the GCSE ladder below grade G (to H, I etc) and is instead calling on schools and colleges to develop a range of Entry-level qualifications, aimed lower than anything on offer at present.

Sir Ron said: "Some 20 per cent of our young people do not achieve a qualification in both the core subjects of English and mathematics, and that clouds their whole future. To encourage, motivate and recognise the achievement of such young people must be a major objective."

The priority for Entry level would be to recognise communication, numeracy and information technology. Scales used to assess 11-year-olds could form the basis of Entry-level criteria.

Sir Ron added that teenagers who play truant or have lost interest in school may respond to the "more adult environment" of a further education college. He wants schools to link with colleges to create education programmes for low achievers.

The Association for Colleges welcomed the report and said its members would work with schools, provided disenchanted teenagers were not "dumped" on them.

MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

NEARLY 200 recommendations are made in Sir Ron Dearing's report, including:

- A national framework for all qualifications of four levels: entry, foundation, intermediate and advanced.
- Renaming the advanced GNVQ the "applied A level".
- Making the applied A level the same size as a single A level (currently advanced GNVQs take the curriculum time of two A levels).
- Higher standards required in some A levels, including English and art.
- An Advanced Subsidiary (AS) examination to replace the present AS level, based on the first half of an A-level syllabus, to encourage four or five choices at 16 rather than three full A levels.
- A new range of qualifications for low-achievers at entry level, below a GCSE grade G.
- The chance for study sessions at further education colleges or in the workplace for under-achievers at 14.

□ Opportunities for high achievers to take units of university courses while still at school or college.

□ Encouragement for high achievers to take Special level papers and a possible course in the theory of knowledge.

□ A National Advanced Diploma to recognise high achievement.

□ Emphasis on the key skills of communication, numeracy and information technology as part of the new National Certificates and Diplomas.

□ Improvements to course and careers guidance.

□ Relaunch Youth Training as a system of National Traineeships.

□ Revisio and relaunch of individual National Records of Achievement for students to use to record all their achievements and plan future learning.

□ Improvements to the assessment and rigour of GNVQs.

□ Review of training for teachers of 16 to 19-year-olds.

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Candidates and employers welcome reforms and say courses fail to prepare students for A levels

Sixth-form pupils say GCSEs are too easy

By DAVID CHARTER

STUDENTS criticised GCSEs as too easy in a survey of 16 to 19-year-olds conducted for Sir Ron Dearing's review. It also showed that many A-level students would prefer continuous assessment, rather than all examinations coming at the end of their courses.

STUDENT VIEW

Students criticised the lack of depth in the combined science GCSE, which merges physics, chemistry and biology into a "double award" qualification. They said that those planning to take science A levels should be advised to take separate subjects at GCSE and called for an increase in the coverage and depth of all GCSEs.



Jane de Swell, head of Henrietta Barnett School, north London



Tony Webb, Confederation of British Industry director of education and training



Kate Orebmann, the Marks & Spencer manager of recruitment



Jon Ashworth, London School of Economics Vice-Chancellor

"I welcome the reforms, particularly the horizontal AS levels with an exam at the end of year 12. Doing four subjects, which the students are not forced to continue, is a great opportunity for breadth and a strong motivating factor. But it is the S levels I have reservations about: they are very demanding and if they require additional teaching it might be impossible to find staff. My budget certainly wouldn't allow that."

"The opening of the range of options for students is particularly welcome and will increase the likelihood of making students attractive to employers. Sir Ron Dearing is saying that there are a variety of education customers out there, all with their individual needs and facing different challenges. These proposals enable them to take up new options, while the rest can continue as before. That is a welcome change to the system."

"Widening the choice of subjects and relating them more to the world outside academia is a good thing. Teamwork is important and students practise it at GCSE level and at university. So far A levels have been an anomaly in the middle. The changes proposed would seem to address some of that. But while S levels might be suitable to some, there is more to gain from a university education than academic knowledge."

"I took two S levels myself so I must be in favour of them. I thoroughly enjoyed them and they were very useful when I started university. But one mustn't forget that universities are very different from schools. I see no reason in principle why applied A levels shouldn't be good enough to go on to university. It all depends on the nature of the university course. Some institutions will be very interested in this, particularly the technological universities."

Revolution may fail to smash class barriers

COMMENTARY

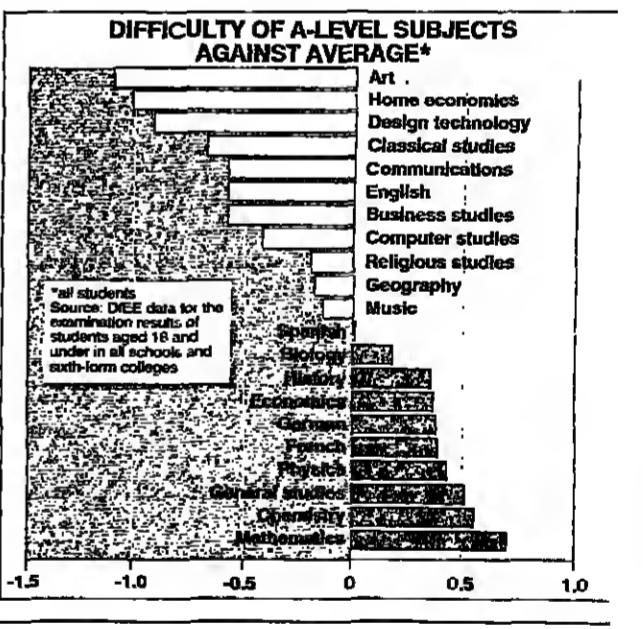
SIR RON DEARING produced a blueprint yesterday for a revolution in qualifications after the age of 16. His 200 recommendations cover everything from spirituality in the sixth form to raising the status of vocational courses, toughening up A levels and attracting more teenagers to science.

Vocational Qualifications, for example, will not follow the same rules as the academic variety, where coursework is limited and there are restrictions on modular courses. Although a new points system should give them equal currency for university entrance, admissions tutors will not necessarily agree.

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There is something in the report for all of them: tougher A levels and a revival of the S level for critics of standards, a more prestigious name and a single framework of qualifications for the vocational courses lobby, reformed AS levels and an all-embracing National Advanced Diploma for those most concerned about breadth of study. But some will see contradictions. The new Applied A levels (hitherto General National



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Schweizer: prominent in militia movement

Secessionist gunmen defy US justice as FBI closes in on ranch

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

DAWN on the high, snow-touched plains of Montana yesterday found 100 FBI agents crouched in surveillance positions outside a remote ranch. Inside the compound were an estimated 20 members of the "Freemen", a heavily armed militia group which does not accept the legitimacy of the United States and has refused to surrender to police. The stakeout entered its third day

after the arrest on Monday of the militia's two leaders. In a federal courthouse in the nearest city, Billings, the men, LeRoy Schweizer and Daniel Petersen Jr, shouted insults and demanded that they be tried in their own self-styled "country" of "Justus Township". For the FBI agents at the 960-acre ranch in Garfield County, meanwhile, came chilling rumours that militia groups from other parts of the United States may be heading towards Montana, like stampeding

bison, to "monitor" the siege and "ensure" there is no repeat of the violence that ended the six-week stand-off at the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas, in 1993. Federal officials are anxious to prevent violence and Sherry Matteucci, a lawyer, made a televised appeal to militia members, who are said to include women and children. "We intend you no harm," she said. "Our goal is for you to come in peacefully." The police prevented access to the

Freemen's ranch, which is about 20 miles from the village of Jordan (population: 450), and aircraft were forbidden to fly over the area. Until November the farm was owned by two brothers who belonged to the militia, Ralph and Emmen Clark, but they lost it to a bank. The new owners want to move in to start spring planting. Their complaints finally forced the police to take action. So threatened by the Freemen have Jordan villagers been feeling

that they had considered starting a vigilante group to "get trained, get arms and go in and do it", according to Tom Stanton, 59, who owns a neighbouring plot of land. Reporters who tried to approach Justus Township were abused. A Polish reporter said he was shot at, and an ABC television crew was relieved of \$66,000 (£42,000) in equipment. Louanne Biggerstaff, a local woman who knew LeRoy Schweizer at school, recalled a boy who even then showed "a lot of inspira-

onal leadership qualities". Mr Schweizer is a prominent figure in the militia movement and "pilgrims" have been known to travel across the United States to see him. He and other Freemen are accused of fraud and of advocating violence for political ends. The name of Justus spells out the desire of the Freemen to create their own rules and codes of behaviour. In place of modern American law, they recognise parts of common law, the Bible and Magna Carta.

British hitch-hiker tells murder trial of battle to escape

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

A BRITON described yesterday how he dodged bullets and ran for his life when an Australian roadworker accused of killing seven tourists opened fire. He escaped only after struggling from the grasp of the alleged murderer and throwing himself in front of a passing vehicle. Paul Onions, 29, is the only known survivor of the man accused of carrying out the "backpacker murders". He told the Supreme Court in Sydney that he was hitch-hiking alone six years ago when Ivan Milat picked him up near the entrance to the Belanglo State Forest, where the remains of his seven alleged victims were found. Mr Onions, from Willenhall, West Midlands, said he found himself staring in disbelief when Mr Milat pulled out a gun. "The main thing I remember was the copper tips of the bullets in the chamber, so I knew it was real. The gun was pointing straight at me. I could feel my voice shaking. I couldn't believe it. I said, 'Calm down, what's the problem?' He said, 'This is a robbery.'"

Mr Onions said the driver then produced a rope. "That scared me more than the gun." Mr Onions leapt out of the vehicle and started to run as Mr Milat shouted that he would shoot. "I heard the gun go off and I started dodging and weaving." His attacker pursued him, Mr Onions said, wrestling him to the ground on the central reservation of the motorway as cars drove past. Some motorists slowed down, before accelerating away. "I was just about to give up. He was holding on to my shirt and I tried to free myself. I thought this is my last chance. I've got to get away now."

Mr Onions said he struggled free and threw himself in front of a van, forcing it to stop. He opened the door and jumped in, telling the frightened woman driver: "This man has got a gun." She drove him to a nearby police station. Mr Onions said he remembered his attacker had a moustache, of the style made famous by the former Australian Test cricketer Merv Hughes, "dark squinty eyes" and a stupid grin. Asked by the prosecution if the man was in court, Mr Onions turned and motioned at the defendant, sitting a few feet away. It emerged yesterday that detectives had waited five months before following up a telephone call Mr Onions, an engineer, had made to New South Wales police in November 1993. He had telephoned them from England after the discovery of the bodies of two young British women and wanted to remind police of his encounter. It was not until April 1994 that an officer contacted him. A few weeks later Mr Onions was flown to Sydney where he identified Mr Milat from a videotape. Mr Milat, 51, has denied the murder of the seven hitch-hikers, including Joanne Walters, of Maesteg, and Caroline Clarke, of Surrey. All had been killed with a gun or knife. Mr Milat also denies kidnapping Mr Onions. Earlier, Mr Milat's sister-in-law had admitted in court that she altered the date on a photograph to the weekend the two British women disappeared. The picture of Mr Milat on a camping holiday was originally dated Easter 1991, but Carolynne Milat changed the date to Easter 1992. She denied she had altered the date after her brother-in-law was arrested. "Did you do it to provide an alibi for him?" Mark Tedeschi, for the prosecution, asked. "Definitely not," she replied. Mrs Milat, who is married to one of the defendant's brothers, William, claimed it was a mistake. Mrs Milat told the court that her brother-in-law had been at a family gathering at his mother's house on Boxing Day 1991 when another two of his alleged victims, Anja Habschied and Gabor Neugebauer, were last seen alive. She said she remembered Ivan urging one of the children to fire a water pistol at her when she arrived at the front door. Mrs Milat said her husband and other members of the family were also there. As the witness left the court, a man accompanying her kicked and punched a newspaper photographer. The case continues.



Onions: threw himself in front of passing van



Milat: accused of killing seven backpackers



Goya's *Third of May, 1808*, in which the painter depicted the execution of royalist rebels in Madrid during the Napoleonic wars in Spain

Spain's year of Goya to be given a royal send-off

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

KING JUAN CARLOS and Queen Sofia of Spain will open the Goya exhibition at Madrid's Prado art museum today at the start of national celebrations to mark the 250th anniversary of the Spanish painter's birth. The Spanish ministries responsible

for culture and tourism have formed a state company, Goya 96, to promote the anniversary. More than £3 million will be spent on 16 exhibitions, five congresses, a film, a ballet, a play and an opera, all dedicated to aspects of Goya's life. The federal bank, Argentaia, is sponsoring the events. Tickets to the Prado exhibition, which will last until June 2

cost 1,000 pesetas (£5). Until recently it was difficult to obtain tickets for important cultural events in Spain, so a new telephone reservation and credit card payment service has been widely welcomed. So far, 4,000 tickets have been sold. Several luxury hotels are offering a package with goyasco entertainments, such as dining in one of old Madrid's

mesones, where the painter enjoyed Castilian roast baby lamb and sucking pig, or attending a goyasco corrida, a traditional-style bullfight, a spectacle frequently portrayed by Goya. The Prado's Goya collection has been supplemented by 30 works from around the world, many returning to Spain for the first time.

Presidents vow to help each other

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton and President Yeltsin agreed earlier this month to give each other political support before the approaching American and Russian presidential elections. Mr Clinton told Mr Yeltsin he "wanted to make sure that everything the United States did would have a positive impact and nothing should have a negative impact", according to a classified account of their meeting at the recent anti-terrorism summit in Egypt, leaked to yesterday's *Washington Times*. "The main thing is that the two sides not do anything that would harm the other," Mr Clinton told Mr Yeltsin. "Things could come up between now and the elections in Russia or the United States which could cause conflicts." The White House acknowledged the quotes were accurate but questioned their interpretation. On a lighter note, Mr Yeltsin proposed providing

Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, with a "young attractive instructor" to teach him Russian. Mr Clinton agreed that such a move would certainly change Mr Christopher's image. Meanwhile in Washington, Ross Perot and Pat Buchanan continued to plague Bob Dole after he claimed the Republican presidential nomination following an overwhelming victory in the California primary. Mr Perot embarked on a national speaking tour to promote his new Reform Party, which threatens to split the anti-Clinton vote and ensure the President's re-election. Mr Buchanan today meets nearly 50 top supporters at his home in the wealthy Washington suburb of McLean to compile a list of demands dubbed the "McLean Manifesto". He has left open the possibility of running as an independent and further fragmenting the Republican vote if these demands are ignored.

Nixon tapes reveal dirty tricks

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

MORE than 3,000 hours of Richard Nixon's secretly recorded tapes, covering White House dirty tricks and his historic dealings with China and the Soviet Union, will be

released under an agreement between the Justice Department, the National Archives and his executors. The tapes represent a treasure trove for historians in search of a greater understanding of Nixon's ability to establish detente with Mos-

cow and an opening to Peking while also conducting high crimes against his political foes. The first 200 hours of the recordings will focus on the web of illegal acts connected with the Watergate scandal, including misuse of the FBI and the CIA.

Satirists leap on Dole's third party rhetoric

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

AT his party in Washington to celebrate clinching the Republican presidential nomination, Bob Dole declared that the battle for America's future had begun, adding: "That's where Bob Dole will lead us." Mark it up as another example of Mr Dole's Third Personspeak - a recurring idiosyncrasy. He often sums up his stump speeches with the remark: "That's what Bob Dole is all about." Pat Buchanan has also fallen into Third Personspeak, which is becoming a rich vein for mimicry and ridicule. National Public Radio challenged listeners to furnish quotations where similar self-references would have ruined the whole effect. A few of the early favourites: "Frankly, my dear, Rhet Butler doesn't give a damn." "How does Elizabeth Bar-

rett Browning love thee? Let Elizabeth Barrett Browning count the ways." Then there is: "John Lennon is the walrus." From *Moby Dick*: "Call Ishmael, Ishmael." Then there were: "Winston Churchill has nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat." "That's one small step for Neil Armstrong, one giant leap for mankind." From *A Tale of Two Cities*: "It is a far, far better thing that Sydney Carton does than Sydney Carton has ever done." And: "Claudius, Claudius." Richard Nixon was the first modern exponent of political Third Personspeak. After losing the 1962 California governor's race, he told reporters, wrongly as it turned out: "You won't have Nixon to kick around any more."

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Patten denounces Peking's plan for parallel rule

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

CHRIS PATTEN, the Governor of Hong Kong, yesterday rejected Chinese proposals to set up a second legislature here, to extract a loyalty pledge from the Civil Service and to sideline the Governor, all before the 1997 handover of the colony.

China's newest blow to the colony, after Peking's humiliation in the Taiwan elections, was the suggestion that, once China has picked the members of a Provisional Legislative Council, which will sit concurrently with the present wholly elected one, and designated a chief executive to replace Mr Patten on July 1, 1997, "Mr Patten will inevitably become a loner". The idea

was mooted by an "official", reliably reported to be Lu Ping, head of the State Council's China and Macau Affairs Office. The official also said that, after the chief executive has appointed his senior officials from among serving senior civil servants here, "it will be impossible for those officials to work under Mr Patten in the morning and under the instruction of the chief executive in the afternoon. I have to ask Mr Patten how the British-Hong Kong Government will operate. I do not know how Mr Patten can pass his days in the final stage."

Colony criticised by Privy Council

BY JONATHAN MIRSKY

THE Privy Council yesterday branded the Hong Kong Government's treatment of four Vietnamese boatpeople "an affront" to civilised standards, ordering the immediate release of the one left in custody.

Refugees has steadily lost touch with the camps and the Government has been left with the task of forcing their repatriation to an unco-operative Vietnam. The boatpeople now number 23,000 after the often reluctant repatriation of more than 46,000 others. Pam Baker, a British lawyer who has long defended them, said the decision would have profound significance for many others in the camps, some of whom have been detained for more than 15 years.

The Privy Council noted that at least 400 boatpeople have been refused re-entry to Vietnam, often on the grounds that they are not genuine Vietnamese, and are being held without trial. Mr Beloff said there was "no realistic prospect of release" for many camp inmates, and that they must be set free unless the Government can show why their detention should continue.

Peking has emphasised repeatedly that it wants the Vietnamese repatriated or sent to other countries before China resumes control.

Many Hong Kong people may find themselves seeking refugee status in less than two years. However, most resent the fact that the colony has been forced to support the boatpeople. The United Nations High Commissioner for

Chinese troops are staging a new round of mock battles against Taiwan, despite apparent conciliatory tones between Taipei and Peking, a leading Taiwanese newspaper said yesterday.

China 'staging fresh wargames'

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN TAIPEI

CHINESE troops are staging a new round of mock battles against Taiwan, despite apparent conciliatory tones between Taipei and Peking, a leading Taiwanese newspaper said yesterday. The exercises are smaller than the ones that ended on Monday, the *United Daily News* reported in a dispatch from New York. The manoeuvres, reportedly being held inland, were said to be less menacing than the previous exercises, which disrupted shipping in the Taiwan Strait and were seen as capable of being turned quickly

into actual attacks. The report cited sources close to the Chinese military. Officials in Taiwan and China would not comment. Yin Tsung-wen, the director of Taiwan's National Security Bureau, said yesterday that China was expected to conduct exercises on mountains and urban terrain that resembled Taiwan. The exercises, code-named "Success 965", were reported in several cities and mountains in Fujian and Guangdong provinces. They involved troops from the 27th and 63rd legions, based in the

Peking military zone. About 180,000 troops were taking part in the exercises, compared to the 800,000 in three rounds of earlier wargames which were calculated to intimidate Taiwan, the paper reported. In a separate report, the *United Daily News* quoted unidentified military officials as saying Taiwan would establish three bases for Patriot missiles in northern Taiwan to help to defend the capital city of Taipei. Bases would be set up in Nankang, Linkou and Wanli for the missiles, which would be delivered from the

United States late this year, it added. Peking: Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the United Nations Secretary General, who met Chinese leaders here during a four-day visit to China, said that Taiwan could never be a UN member "unless there is a change of mind in China." (James Pringle writes). Meanwhile, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said America would face the "resolute opposition" of China and its people if Taiwan's newly elected President, Lee Teng-hui, was allowed to accept an invitation to visit the US.

Briton rejected freedom

BY LEVYA LINTON AND JONATHAN MILLER IN BANGKOK

CHRISTOPHER HOWES, the British charity worker taken hostage in northwestern Cambodia, rejected an offer of freedom because he did not want to abandon his Cambodian colleagues. The kidnappers, believed to be Khmer Rouge deserters, told him to go to negotiate a ransom, but Mr Howes, 36, a Falklands ex-serviceman, refused. Instead, he persuaded the bandits to release nine captives. Others escaped and the rest, except Mr Howes's interpreter, were set free later. Roy Howes, 68, from Bristol, said he was not surprised by his son's bravery. "He is just an ordinary Englishman doing his job," he said. Mr Howes was seized with up to 23 volunteers on Tuesday as he supervised mine-clearing. Yesterday, two Cambodian policemen were killed by landmines as they helped to search for him.



Yigal Amir, flanked by policemen, being escorted into court yesterday for sentencing

Killer of Rabin harangues court after life sentence

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

YIGAL AMIR, 25, was sentenced yesterday for the premeditated murder of Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, whom he assassinated last November in a religiously inspired attempt to derail the peace process with the Palestinians. Amir showed no remorse when the life sentence was read out.

Conspiracy theories that surround the controversial killing are likely to be heightened today when a 268-page report by the State Commission of Inquiry on the lamentable performance of Israel's security services is published. One-third of the report is classified as secret.

Judicial experts said Amir was likely to spend the rest of his life in a special cell complex for his own safety. A number of Israeli prisoners have already issued a warning that an attempt would be made to kill Amir.

Moshe Negbe, a legal expert, told Israel radio that Amir was an unlikely candidate for a normal presidential pardon and that the additional six-year consecutive sentence he received for wounding one of Rabin's bodyguards was therefore "meaningless".

Given the huge public interest, the Tel Aviv court allowed its verdict to be broadcast live. Oded Mudrik, one of the three judges who delivered the expected verdict, said: "Behind bars and within the prison

walls, the 'mark of Cain' will be imprinted on the forehead of the accused."

Amir, an extreme right-wing former law student, showed little emotion when sentence was passed. The judges were dismissive of defence claims that he had intended only to wound Rabin, 73, rather than kill him. Amir, flanked by police, stood confidently with hand on hip and addressed the court for about four minutes before being stopped by Edmond Levy, the chief judge, who had shown little patience with him during the trial because of his attempts to use the stand as a platform for his militant views.

In his speech, Amir also said: "Everything I did, I did for the people of Israel, for the Torah [Bible] of Israel, for the land of Israel. Whoever tries to break this link between these things will not succeed." When Judge Levy cut him off, Mr Amir said: "May God help you." Later, as he was marched out of the packed court, he shouted: "The state of Israel is a monstrosity."

Passing sentence, Judge Levy said Amir "is unworthy of anything except pity: in that he has lost all semblance of humanity... He decided that putting the late Prime Minister to death was the last way to stop the political process which he did not like, and he followed this path to its end."

Gunman holds seven hostage

Leienkaul, Germany: A gunman seized seven hostages, four of them children, in a western German village yesterday and threatened to kill them if his demands were not met, the police said. They said the 45-year-old gunman had originally held 12 members of his own extended family captive, but it was not

immediately clear how the other five family members apparently had managed to get away. The unnamed man from Mannheim was holding his hostages in a relation's house in Leienkaul, a village in rolling hills near Koblenz, on the Rhine. He was demanding 500,000 marks (£220,000) and

the opportunity to make good his escape. The police opened negotiations by telephone, but said an early end to the siege was not in sight. They lifted a news blackout that had been imposed after the gunman said he would kill himself and his hostages if the media reported the incident. (Reuters)

Jackson's star dims in Oscars fiasco

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES

AS HOLLYWOOD returns groggily to work, it has become clear that the only real loser on Oscar night was the Rev Jesse Jackson.

Mr Jackson's protest over the under-representation of blacks in films, which began with the revelation that only one Oscar nominee was African-American, has turned into a political damp squib and a personal humiliation.

After Whoopi Goldberg, the black actress, mocked him in front of a billion television viewers on Monday, Mr Jackson was dismissed yesterday by Patricia Turner, a professor of African-American Studies at the University of California, as "an unduly opportunistic man grasping for straws".

Mr Jackson urged Californian supporters to join him on Oscar night with banners and slogans outside ABC television's Los Angeles affiliate, but barely two dozen turned up. He urged the eight black celebrities appearing as presenters to wear rainbow-coloured ribbons in recognition of his Rainbow Coalition, but only the producer, Quincy Jones, did so.

Claiming in the aftermath of Hollywood's night of stars to be "at the centre of debate", Mr Jackson may have been accurate. But that debate concerns his judgment. Publicists for Ms Goldberg and Mr Jones told the *Los Angeles Times* that both considered the Oscars the wrong time and place for a protest.



Zia: stopped short of tendering resignation

Zia bows to pressure for election

Dhaka: Begum Khalida Zia, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, gave in to months of pressure yesterday and asked President Biswas to set up a caretaker government to oversee fresh elections, state television said.

Earlier, senior officials told the President that they could not work from today unless the country's political crisis was resolved.

The Prime Minister reiterated her pledge to hold an election in May, it was reported. However, her move stopped short of meeting opposition demands that she resign yesterday.

Ayubur Rahman, Bangladesh's most senior civil servant, signed a statement saying: "The administration, economy and law and order have all collapsed. As there is no obstacle to... a caretaker government, we have suggested to the President that it be formed immediately."

Opposition parties have staged a series of strikes to try to force Begum Zia to resign and call new elections under a neutral body. (Reuters)

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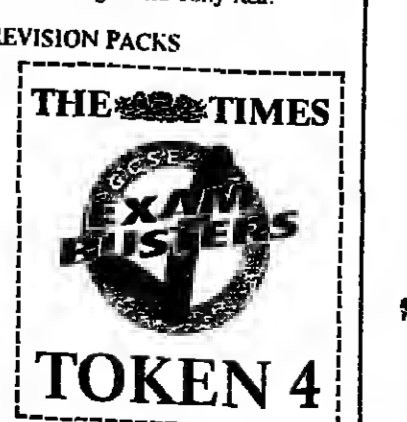
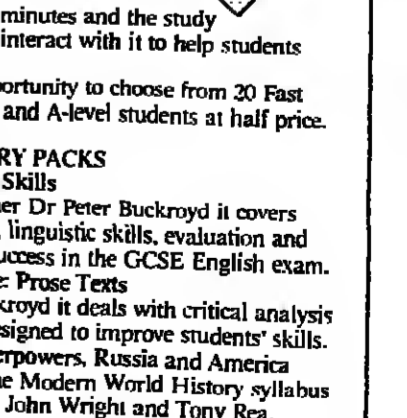
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Women who trade faces

There are moments in life when a woman simply has to take on a new image, says Joe Joseph

When Sarah Ferguson's drawn, unsmiling, blanched face and kohl-rimmed eyes appeared on the front of *Hello!* this week, many people must have assumed that the world-hopping Duchess of York had volunteered to take part in some health education campaign to warn about the draining effects of multiple jetlag.

Then we found out that she had actually spent several hours with a make-up artist trying to achieve this ghostly Morticia Addams look, like those odd people who go to fancy-dress parties amusingly kitted out as accident victims.

It's certainly not a wash-and-go style, even for someone who doesn't have to rush to work first thing in the morning. Fancy photographic techniques and possibly computer enhancement may have heightened the ashen, single-chin look.

But what makes women who, until now, have been happily photographed as mumsy girls-next-door feel they suddenly have to play the vamp? The Princess of Wales did it, famously, in front of Patrick Demarchelier's flattering lens. The Duchess of Kent called on Snowdon, and later Demarchelier, when she wanted to show new faces to the world.

Emma Thompson did it for *Vanity Fair*, and Anthea Turner made a lunge at losing her Saturday-evening-family-entertainer image by posing for *Tatler* in a way that made her look sexyish, though not quite *femme fatale*.

"Quite often," says psychologist Dr Dorothy Rowe, "all of us will change something about our appearance when we feel we've moved into a new phase in our lives. It may be just a matter of getting rid of a garment or a hairstyle."

Or maybe even your senses.

Dr Martin Skinner, a psychologist at Warwick University, agrees that "people do go for a completely different look when there's been some big disjunction in their lives



HELLO! STUNNING NEW LOOK FOR THE DUCHESS OF YORK

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HELLO! DEMO MOORE AND BRUCE WILLIS: NOW WITH AN IDIANO VILLAGE AND CINEMA TO CALL THEIR OWN
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Famous makeovers: the Princess of Wales changed her image in front of Patrick Demarchelier's lens, while the Duchess of Kent called in Snowdon. The Duchess of York (centre) prefers the Morticia look

— after a breakup or when they have got a new job."

But hasn't she aped the Princess Diana *Panorama* look, with the black-rimmed eyes?

"Fergie quite often follows the Princess," Dr Rowe says. "Di works out, so does Fergie. Di uses kohl, so does Fergie."

But Diana doesn't walk around like she's just finished an eight-hour shift in a flour mill. What's the white face all about? Probably from those moody adverts in glossy women's mags for lipstick and mascara. If you squint hard enough, the restructured Fergie even has something of the pallid Marianne Faithfull about her. Borrowing looks from other women is a peculiarly female hobby. You often overhear women in hairdress-

ers asking for a Helena Christiansen cut, but it's rare to see a man asking for a "Jeremy Paxman" or a "Bobby Charlton".

Makeovers in general tend to be a woman thing: you don't often come across men who say they're gonna wash that girl right outta their hair. You don't spot Stephen Dorrell going for a session of aromatherapy, or a spending spree in Bond Street boutiques, to lift his spirits and take his mind off BSE.

This may be because men tend to spend about four minutes on their daily grooming, which includes shaving and spraying cologne on yesterday's work shirt, and they can see that something like Fergie's makeover looks high-maintenance. Even if Fergie could spare seven

hours every morning to paint her face and suck her cheeks in, she would need an extra staff of four.

She would also need a thick enough skin to step out of her front door in daylight looking like a plumper version of a blanched Michael Jackson. Diana hasn't been half as ambitious in her redesign, and even she still can't do her own hair.

So what possessed Fergie? "She's had a lot of bad press recently," says Dr Skinner, "and you don't do something as dramatic as this by accident. She must have known what effect it would have, so maybe it's a signal that she is making a radical departure."

What, another one? Fergie seems to change her appearance as frequently as other people change their sheets, all the way from Sarah Shell-Suit to the latest version — Sarah Supermodel (though still not Sarah Sexy). Fergie has turned into a human pinball. Each time you think she is about to come to rest, she bucks off again like a bullet in a completely unpredictable direction. And she usually does her dramatic makeovers in public. She has indulged *Hello!* 15 times since January 1995 alone.

"It seems to me," says Dr Rowe, "she's never done anything to avoid the media. I wonder if she's one of these people who needs to be noticed? You experience your sense of existence in your relationship to other people. If you have a lot of

self-confidence, you don't need all the world to love you.

"But if you feel you don't have good, loving relationships with the people around you, and you feel you're very much on your own, and you don't feel good about yourself, and you feel that if you're not noticed you'll just disappear, then you'll do almost anything to get noticed. Fergie's been excluded from so much oow. She even has to buy her own postage stamps. She's pretty isolated. The pictures are a way of saying, hey, I'm still here, take notice."

But where have all the freckles gone?

"Women often have hang-ups about freckles. You get teased about them at school and there's nothing you can do about them.

Maybe Fergie is miserable and she's covered them with white make-up."

Dr Skinner adds that "most blemishes on the face — scars, pigmentation, spots — we don't like. But freckles are somehow accepted, especially on children, though children can be self-conscious about them. You can't control freckles, so as an adult you might want to cover them up. Neil Kinnock has freckles. But a white face? It doesn't really go with red hair."

Dr Rowe points out that Fergie has debts, "and we all do all sorts of things when we need the money".

Dr Skinner scratches his head, as bemused as the rest of us by Fergie's antics: "She could have done it for a bet. Who knows?"

TWENTY years ago, a young doctor who had just qualified, exalting in his new status, would hurry around the network of tunnels which linked the various buildings in his teaching hospital.

At the time, it would not have occurred to him that one day there would be a suspicion that the pipes running along the roof of the tunnel and lagged in flaking, ageing asbestos might be responsible for killing him.

That doctor now has a mesothelioma, a tumour which attacks the pleura, the membrane which covers both

Asbestos link to lung disease and cancer BSE risk and children Side effects of plant extracts

The killer dust

the lungs and lines the inner wall of the chest cavity, thereby making a sac for the lungs to lie in.

Mesotheliomas grow quickly into the lungs and produce a sticky fluid which collects in the pleural cavity.

Treatment is symptomatic, for there is no cure. The amount of exposure to asbestos

which will later lead to a mesothelioma is variable, but the tumour is rare unless the exposure, even if not particularly heavy, lasts for at least six months.

The anxious doctor, always scurrying to answer one emergency call after another and therefore slightly out of breath, would probably have

inhaled fibres from the asbestos far more deeply than if he had sauntered through the underground passages and taken normal breaths.

Not all types of asbestos are harmful. But the hazards of exposure to the fibres have recently hit the headlines after Westminster City Council was accused of rehousing families in a tower block heavily contaminated by it. Now two elderly people, who developed mesothelioma after playing in the streets of Leeds with asbes-

sis, a fibrosis of the lungs similar to that which used to develop in coal miners before the Second World War.

The fibres of asbestos are inhaled deep into the lung tissue where they trigger the fibrosis, which reduces the lungs' capacity and their ability to absorb oxygen.

As a result of the lung changes, the patient becomes increasingly breathless and is able to manage less and less physical activity.

Eventually, in some cases, respiratory failure develops. The asbestos may also cause thickening of the pleura, which again can be associated with a fluid effusion.



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttford

tos dust during their childhood, have been in dispute over the damages awarded to them.

A lesser trouble for patients who have been exposed to asbestos is asbestosis. This is a widespread pneumoconio-

sis. Patients who have been exposed to tobacco smoke as well as asbestos fibres are particularly liable to develop both chronic bronchitis — with a persistent cough and wheezing — and one of the cancers of the lung.

CJD and the age factor

THE scientists studying Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease and its links with BSE have concluded that on the balance of probability, though little is known about the mechanisms of the spread of such diseases, children are unlikely to be any more at risk of catching it from eating beef than are adults.

In the Kuru outbreak in New Guinea, in which another transmissible encephalopathy was found among cannibals, children suffered

more from it than did adults. It is very possible that low resistance to the "prion" diseases is genetic and that most people will have a good resistance. It is difficult to be dogmatic about children's resistance to infection because many factors can influence it. Chronic infection can reduce it and in many children aged three to six months, when the maternal resistance acquired *in utero* is wearing off, a form of immune deficiency occurs. But the development of the defence system is only delayed and is usually normal by the age of 18 months. The problems of resistance in children to infection are complex and still not entirely understood. But in most cases, resistance seems to grow as they become adults.

Herbal warning



A FAILING memory and fading libido are almost invariably associated with ageing. Doctors interested in herbal medicine might recommend that older patients take an extract of the leaves of *Ginkgo*

biloba, reputed to improve blood supply to the brain and sharpen the intellect, and the root of *Ginseng panax* to restore sexual prowess.

Ginseng is also reputed to boost stamina and concentration. But it can have side effects and interacts badly with some more orthodox medicines. It can compound the effect of antidepressants and tranquillisers, and should not be taken during any acute illness or by people with a psychiatric problem.

The side effects of ginseng are quite well-known. But few doctors would know that, for instance, hawthorn extract is a natural beta-blocker or that Pennyroyal, sometimes prescribed for indigestion, can be lethal.

The Pharmaceutical Press, which publishes *Martindale's*, the standard textbook on drugs, has introduced *Herbal Medicine* (£30), a 300-page companion volume on herbal medicine as a guide for doctors and other health workers, covering medical and culinary uses and interaction with other drugs.

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Jools Holland: funny, likeable, but rendered almost speechless by any topic verging on the personal. The puzzling thing is how he got round to forming his relationship

Jools the obscure

A lighthouse next, Jools Holland thinks. "We'll build it just there," he says, gesturing out of the window past the porter's room, the ladies' lavatory and the platform benches of the cute little railway station he has constructed.

One can only marvel both at the accommodating nature of the south London planning authorities and the grandeur of Holland's vision. His toytown offices are called Helicon Mountain, after the Greek island where poets discovered their muse — a title which seems a touch flamboyant for a suburban hillock with panoramic gasworks views.

Mary Riddell meets Jools Holland, jazz genius and lighthouse builder, who used to find talking about his private life excruciating

Until you walk down to the end of the road, where the small, stone-clad semis are the smarter versions of the nearby homes where Holland grew up, impoverished and flitting from the debt collectors.

Not that he makes a big deal about his past. "If you're going to be a musician, it's all right to come from a big city suburb and be expelled at 15. A bit like Eton and the Guards for old Tory Prime Ministers."

Holland's own finishing school was a stint with a band called Squeeze in the Seven-

ties, followed by *The Tube*, in which he was cast as Paula Yates's screen husband and castigated for swearing on air. The point where he switched from B-list cult figure to serious musician is not absolutely clear, possibly because he so adroitly mastered the difficult art of making accessible the difficult and the obscure. His music programme, *Later*, is running on BBC2, he has just finished a stint with Jazz FM, and this week he will play five concerts with his 12-piece band, the Rhythm and Blues Orchestra. A fine jazz pianist, he is putting the last touches to the band's album, *Sex and Jazz and Rock and Roll*, which will be released shortly.

He is half-sitting, half-lying on a leather chesterfield in his station-master's office, and it is fair to say that he does not instantly evoke great allure. His jumper is ancient, his frayed cords a violent shade of pumpkin.

In addition, he coughs as he scratches as he talks, very fast and rather nervously. He knows that — excellent musician as he is — the great fascination is how he came to be so, and, at 38, he still glorifies what sounds the bleakest of childhoods as a romantic adventure.

His father drifting in and out of work, a tawdry round of different homes, oil lamps because there was no money to pay the electricity bill and a family split up when his parents' marriage fell apart. "I don't think it damaged me. I'd prefer to substitute the word abuse with experience. The worst thing about my parents was not the split but the reunion."

"I was having a nice, frenzied time with no one to bother me when that happened. Not long after they got back together, I moved out." He was 15, with no qualifications but the ability, nurtured by an uncle in his grandpa's front room, to play jazz piano.

It would be enough — not

only to sustain him but the family to which he would become guardian. His brother Christopher plays with the band, his brother Richard runs his recording studio, and the office is managed by a middle-aged cousin. But Jools Holland was never groomed for cosy domesticity.

His relationship with a hairdresser called Mary Leahy, with whom he had two children, fell apart on the day that he visited Barnburgh Castle to film for *The Tube*, met its 23-year-old mistress, Christabel,

Any mention of his partner Christabel reduces him to incoherent bouts of coughing and scratching

Lady Durham, and fell instantly in love. Or so the story goes. It looks for a while as if this version will stand, because any mention of Christabel, now his partner of almost a decade, reduces him to incoherent bouts of coughing and scratching.

Does she, you wonder, work in addition to looking after the children — her son, Fred, 11, their five-year-old daughter, Mabel, and Jools's children, George and Rosie, 11 and ten, who visit at weekends? "Well yes, I think she does. She works here sometimes, arranging pictures."

The most puzzling thing is how Jools — funny, likeable, but rendered almost speechless by any topic verging on the personal — actually got round to forming his relationship, let alone coping with the bitter rifts which it must have provoked.

"Look, I'm not shy," he says suddenly. "You have to be a bit of a show-off to succeed in music. And yes, you're right

about the difficulties. It's just that it wasn't like it's always been reported."

"We were at Barnburgh filming Bryan Ferry, and Christabel was there because she was a friend of his wife, Lucy. She didn't live at the castle — never has done — and that story must have been quite annoying for the people who did. So, no, it wasn't like the chateaux floating down in a nightie with a cup of tea for the film crew."

"Afterwards we didn't meet again for ages. I've blanked exactly what happened, although I wrote it all down in a diary. Her husband, Lord Durham, had gone off with some woman, and Christabel was travelling through Newcastle when we met again."

"And that time we stayed together. Yes, I think we will get married now. There you are, a scoop. It would be nice. A big party, a lovely party, maybe fancy dress. Do people do that for weddings? Whatever the correct social code might be in the relationship between a member of the aristocracy and the south London boy made good, it was violently breached soon after their relationship began."

Jools's father stole Christabel's jewellery, worth £35,000, and served 15 months in prison. Jools has always said that his father was temporarily soft in the head, but the cause was clearly more complex. Drink? Envy?

"Well, maybe it was drink as well. It was a lot harder for him than for me. I wasn't the person who had to go to prison. I was just disappointed."

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Discrimination that makes women sick

Sue Corrigan on the health price high-achievers may pay

CAN SEXISM make women sick? According to two American psychologists it can and, for millenia, it has.

Professors Brett Silverstein and Deborah Perlick, psychologists at two New York universities, say they have identified a syndrome that has afflicted talented and ambitious women at least since the days of the ancient Greeks.

The symptoms of what they have christened Anxious Somatic Depression Syndrome include eating disorders, depression, anxiety, severe headaches, insomnia and menstrual disturbances.

In a contentious new book, *The Cost of Competence*, to be published in the UK shortly, Silverstein and Perlick argue that these symptoms are "all components of a single disorder

modern research alike point, they say, to psychological problems developing among bright women whose fathers value their intelligence highly during their girlhoods, but whose mothers are discouraging.

"We believe that girls treated in this way in childhood suffer from later problems because they develop childhood aspirations and self-concepts built around abilities which go beyond the feminine ideal. Because they define themselves in ways not considered appropriate for females, they are never fully accepted."

They cite the daughters of Freud, Marx and Darwin

Clear examples from the past, they say, include Sigmund Freud's daughter Anna, Karl Marx's Elcanore, Charles Darwin's Henrietta and Albert Einstein's step-daughter Margot, who all suffered from chronic and mysterious illnesses, with depression, headaches and insomnia.

The authors measured the incidence among college students of purging — using laxatives, diuretics or self-induced vomiting to control weight. Among women who reported that in childhood they placed much more importance on their own academic achievement than on their household skills, and that their fathers considered their mothers unintelligent, more than a third reported purging.

Roughly one in five of the students said either that they felt their mothers had been very limited by being female, or that they felt guilty over having better lives than their mothers, or that they minimised their own accomplishments so that their mothers would not feel bad about themselves.

Women who reported any one of these problems were about 20 times as likely to list symptoms of disordered eating and depressed mood as those who did not.

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NEWS

Blair to ballot party on manifesto

Tony Blair is to ballot every member of his party on his general election manifesto in an unprecedented move to prevent a Labour government running into internal trouble that could damage its chances of survival.

All 365,000 members will be consulted next autumn about a draft manifesto setting out Labour's priorities for the first years of government and the document will then be fine-tuned in the weeks before the election.

Revolution in the sixth form

Gillian Shephard signalled the biggest shake-up in sixth-form study for more than 40 years when she ordered tighter A-level standards and introduced a qualifications framework linking vocational and academic courses.

French victim

A French victim of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease may have died of the same strain of the illness as the British patients whose cases have been linked to "mad cow" disease.

Clarke stands firm

Kenneth Clarke has blocked today's Cabinet meeting from resolving the question of a referendum on a single currency by saying Malcolm Rifkind must be present.

Tories hold up

Support for the Tories has held up in the first opinion poll published since the row erupted. But Labour and Tony Blair continue to enjoy their highest ratings since last July.

Tough S levels

High-flying students will be encouraged to take revitalised S levels, or even parts of university courses, under Sir Ron Dearing's plans to stretch the most able sixth-formers.

easy GCSEs

Students criticised GCSEs as "too easy" in a survey of 16 to 19-year-olds conducted for Sir Ron Dearing. They also doubted the relevance of A levels for later life.

MP banned

Sir Nicholas Scott, MP, was fined £450 and banned from driving after he left an accident where a toddler's pushchair was trapped between cars.

Briton ran for his life

A Briton told the "backpacker trial" how he ran for his life when an Australian roadworker accused of killing seven tourists opened fire on him.

Charge dropped

Rachel Heath, a home help accused of attempting to murder a woman who was suffering from terminal cancer, had her case dismissed.

Turin trauma

The BSE crisis has cast a harsh new light on the EU summit in Turin, an event intended to set a serene tone for the Maastricht review conference.

Patient killed father

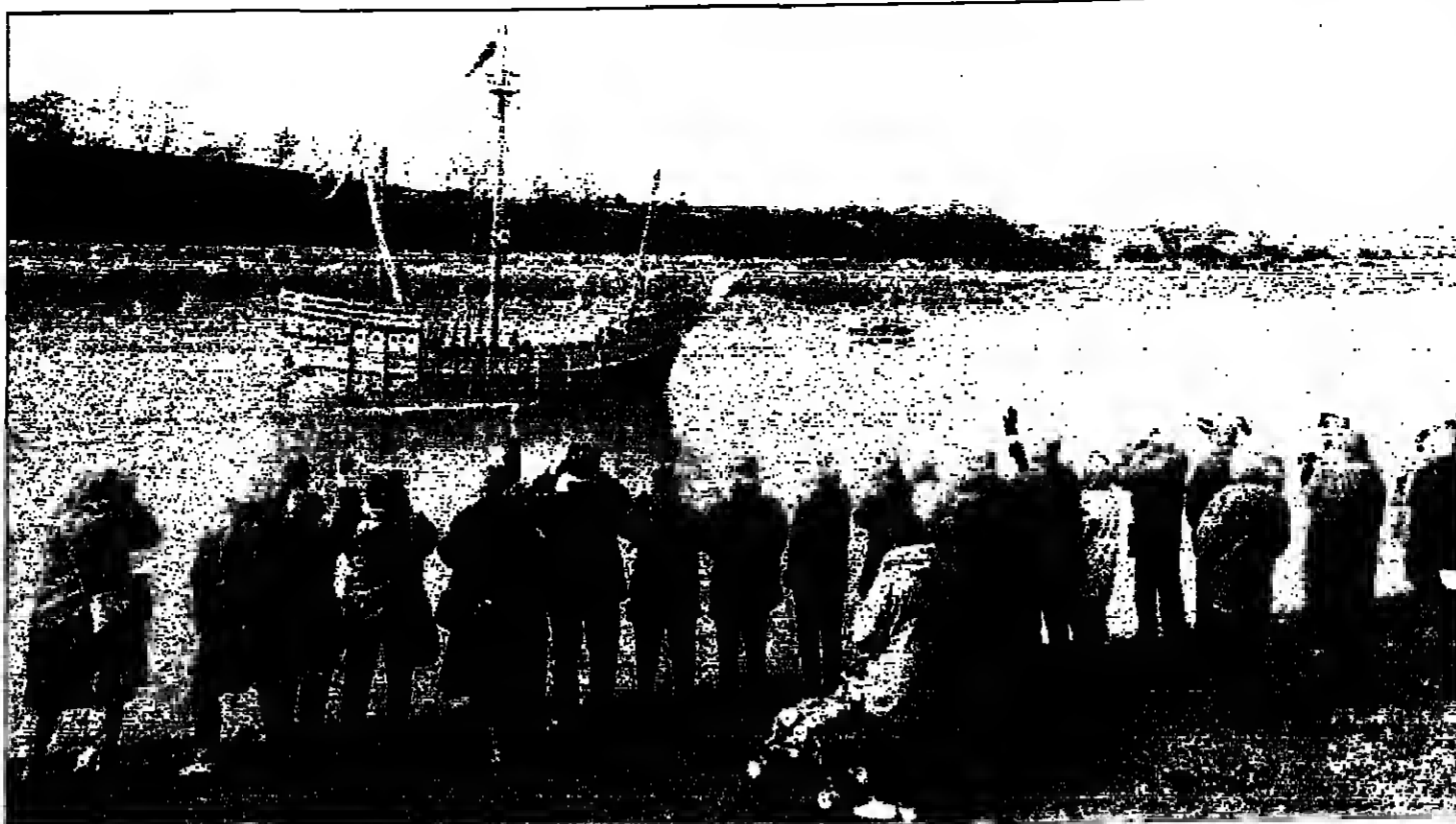
A mental patient allowed back into the community despite known homicidal tendencies killed his father and two pensioners.

Patten refusal

Chris Patten, the Governor, rejected Chinese proposals to set up a second legislature in Hong Kong before the colony's handover in 1997.

Navy women wear the trousers

The Royal Navy's bell-bottom trousers have been reprimed after a review of uniforms. Female ratings are going to wear them as well, with the square rig top of their male counterparts, and they will no longer be allowed to carry a handbag to work.



Thousands of people watched The Matthew, a replica of John Cabot's flagship, as she left Bristol to start sea trials yesterday

Business

Jaguar: The company won £80 million of aid that will help to pay for investment to build a new car and create thousands of jobs.

Sport

Racing: Cigar, the 1995 North American horse of the year, won the \$4 million Dubai World Cup over two other American horses.

Arts

Cinema competition: Have you ever wanted to write a screenplay? The Times Screenwriting Competition offers aspiring auteurs their big break.

Features

Rhythm and blues: Jools Holland, jazz pianist and TV personality, used to find talking about his private life excruciating.

Motorway

BICC and Trafalgar House have scooped a £200 million contract to build and operate a new motorway linking the M1 to the A1 north of Leeds.

Motor racing

Viviane Sena, sister of the late world champion driver, has raised \$2 million this year towards helping Brazilian children to escape poverty.

Competition

Plans for a law to prohibit cartels, anti-competitive agreements between companies and other market-rigging behaviour have been tabled by the Government.

Body and Mind

Whitewash: Why the Duchess of York felt the need to flaunt her new blanched looks.

Markets

The FT-SE 100 index rose 11.5 points to close at 3672.4. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 83.2 to 83.4 after a fall from \$1.5222 to \$1.5185 but a rise from DM2.2465 to DM2.2583.

Rugby league

After nine months of rehabilitation and pain, Franco Botica is ready to resume the most prestigious points-scoring career in the modern game.

Robbins speaks

Why Tim Robbins spoke up for the inmates on death row in his new film Dead Man Walking.

Maths

Day Four of the national curriculum guide.

Travel

Cross country: Tour operators are promoting Australia's open roads for fly-drive holidays.

Books

Uses and abuses: Cultural chameleon Melvyn Bragg's new novel; links between primate grooming and conversation; shared German guilt on Jews.

The Papers

The US Treasury has introduced a new \$100 bill without withdrawing the old in order to stamp out counterfeiters without upsetting the millions of foreigners who feel safer with dollars than with their own money.

Tomorrow

IN THE TIMES

Wizard Oz

Free 16-page pullout guide to holidays in Australia, from downtown Sydney to the deepest outback.

Man from Auntie

Valerie Grove meets Marmaduke Hussey, the retiring BBC chairman.

Obituaries

Terence Skemp, Counsel to the Speaker, 1980-85; David Packard, US Deputy Secretary of Defence; Professor Christopher Archibald, economist.

World

BSE: Robin Hood; EU and UK status; China and Taiwan; Orde Wingate.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,127

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers indicating starting points for words.

- ACROSS
1 Give me feathers for my clothing? Not originally (4-2-4).
6 Beak revealing what the charge is (4).
9 Possibly an MP, et al., I run into here (10).
10 Relation of fisherman, say, returned new fish (4).
12 Look up using various keys (4).
13 Look into one special point as proposer of terms (9).
15 In the grip of corrupt bosses and editor (8).
16 Fly - from France, is repeatedly coming back (6).
18 Football striker reported (6).
20 King's supporter as employer of staff, I note (8).
23 Pollute river with contents of bursting crates (9).
24 Was willing to create political group (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,126. A grid of letters forming words like DYNAMIC, HARNESS, RAOUL, DEVI, etc.

AA Roadwatch

Table with columns for location, time, and status. Locations include London, Birmingham, Manchester, etc.

Hours of Darkness

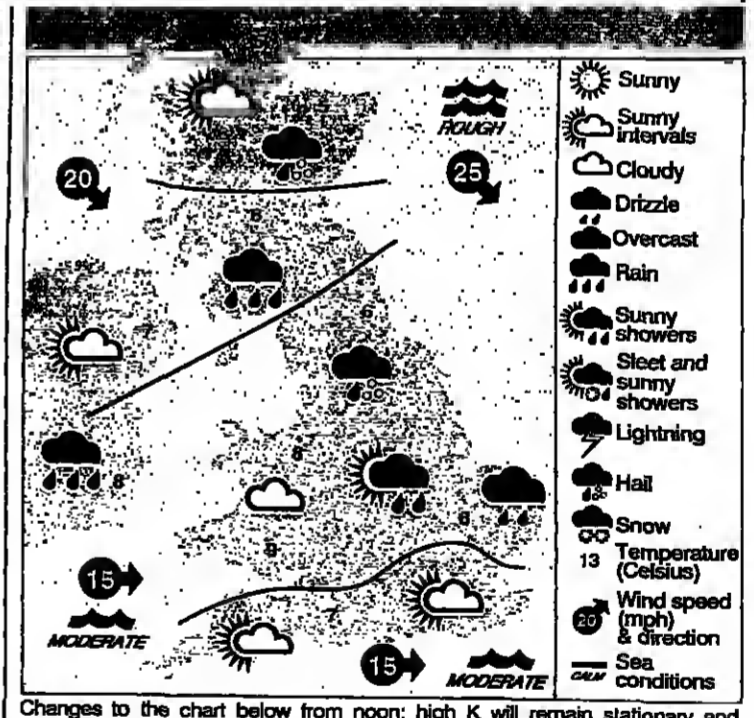
Table showing sunrise and sunset times for various locations like London, Bristol, Edinburgh, etc.

Around Britain Yesterday

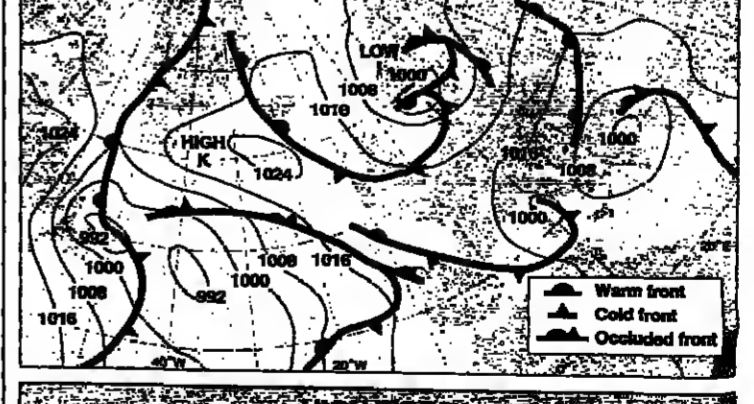
Table showing weather conditions across different regions of Britain, such as London, Manchester, Birmingham, etc.

Forecast

Table providing a forecast for various cities including London, Manchester, Birmingham, etc.



Changes to the chart below from noon: high K will remain stationary and decline. Low I will track southwards to Poland and rapidly fill.



Today's forecast for various cities including London, Manchester, Birmingham, etc.

A table listing today's forecast for various cities, including temperature, wind speed, and other weather details.

Temperatures at midday local time on Tuesday. X = not available.

Advertisement for Bermuda Tourism with the headline 'The outlook in Bermuda is heavenly.' and contact information.

Large vertical advertisement with the text 'Job as Win' and other promotional graphics.

Advertisement for 'Pikin 1900' featuring a large image and text.

ECONOMIC VIEW 29



Hong Kong: the magnet for foreign cash

BOOKS 38, 39



Mysteries of the origins of language

SPORT 42-48



Sister of mercy keeps memory of Senna alive

AUSTRALIA GOES FOR SELF DRIVE Travel 40, 41

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY MARCH 28 1996

Acquisitive Lloyds TSB courts New Zealand bank

BY RACHEL BRIDGE AND PATRICIA TEHAN... LLOYDS TSB is believed to be planning its third massive acquisition...

New Zealand. Sir Brian Pirman, Lloyds TSB chief executive, has made no secret of his admiration for the New Zealand banking and financial system...

wealth Bank, which is up for sale for an estimated \$500 million. Lloyds TSB does not currently have a significant presence in Australia...

Bank has been seen as the other potential partner for Trust Bank. Trust Bank, which is mostly involved in mortgage lending, is 78 per cent owned by community trusts...

or a stake of about 50 per cent. Some community trust shareholders have said they are not willing to sell. The bank would be a good fit with National Bank of New Zealand...

tier 1 capital ratio fell to below 6 per cent after its reverse takeover of TSB. One analyst said yesterday: "It is not in any position to spend."

BUSINESS TODAY

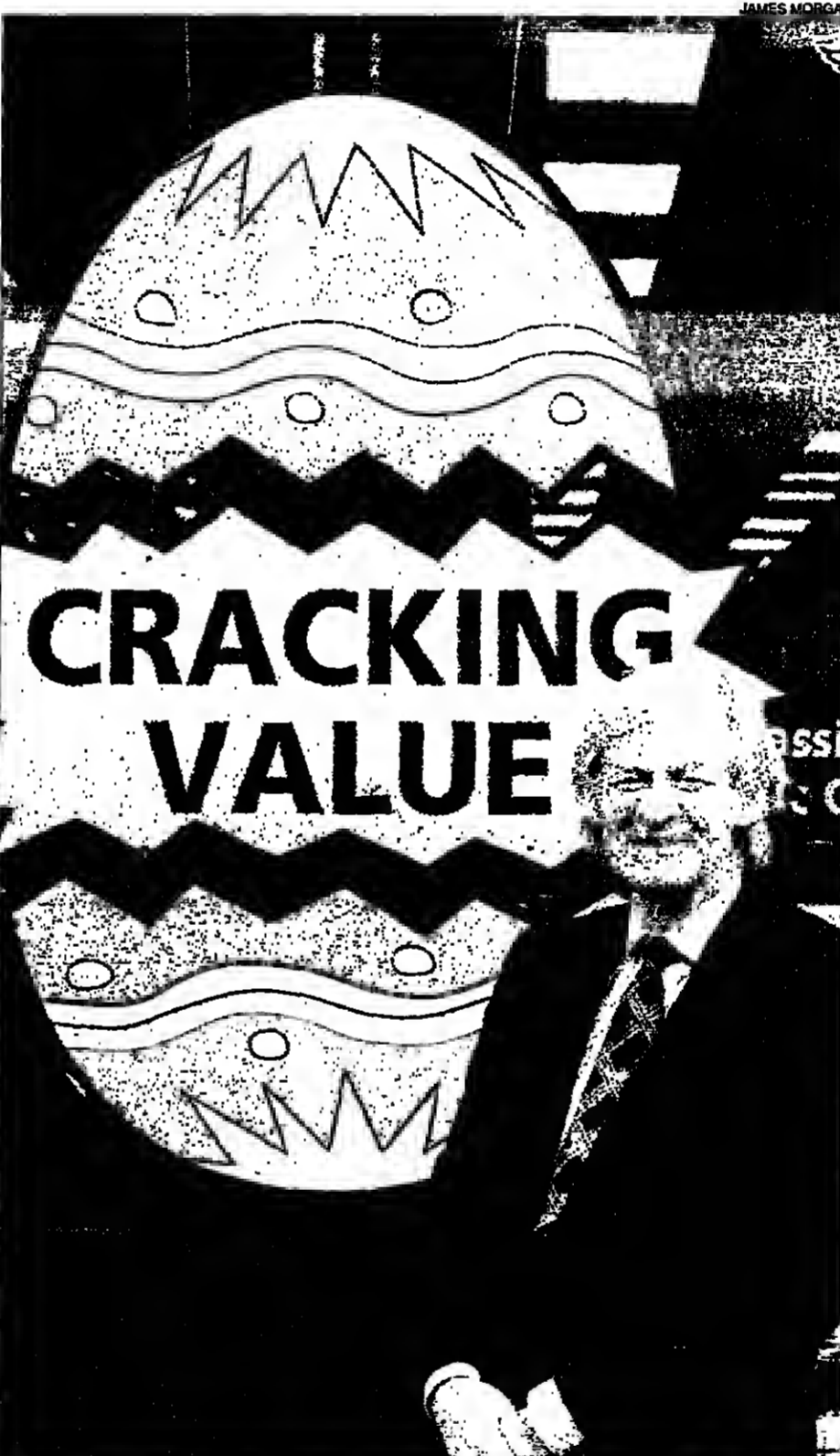
Table with financial data including Stock Market Indices (FT-SE 100, Nikkei, Dow Jones, S&P Composite), US Rate (Federal Funds, Loans, Yield), London Money (3-mth Interbank, 6-mth, 12-mth), Sterling (New York, London, DM, FF, SF, Yen, £ Index), and Dollar (London, DM, FF, SF, Yen, \$ Index).

Jobs bonanza as Jaguar wins £80m aid

JAGUAR yesterday won its fight for £80 million worth of aid that will help to pay for investment to build a new car and create thousands of jobs.

of Trade. He told European Commissioners that the investment was one of the most important in the European motor industry but would be lost to the United States unless the aid was available to Ford, Jaguar's parent company.

missioner van Miert in Brussels about the strategic importance of this project for the British car industry and for the West Midlands.



Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy saw Kingfisher, the Woolworths group, lift profits to £287 million

Kingfisher's B&Q dives

KINGFISHER, the Woolworths group, yesterday reported a sharp fall in profits from its B&Q subsidiary, but denied that the chain's chief executive had come close to leaving because of a clash of views over the way forward for the do-it-yourself business.

scope for £20 million of efficiency gains in B&Q. Referring to speculation that Jim Hodgkinson, head of B&Q, was about to go because of differences of opinion, Sir Geoffrey said "it was never an issue" and that the resulting plan of action was put to the board by Mr Hodgkinson.

scope for £20 million of efficiency gains in B&Q. Referring to speculation that Jim Hodgkinson, head of B&Q, was about to go because of differences of opinion, Sir Geoffrey said "it was never an issue" and that the resulting plan of action was put to the board by Mr Hodgkinson.

Pilkington cuts 1,900 workers

PILKINGTON, the glass-maker, yesterday revealed it was cutting 1,900 jobs worldwide and would take a £155 million exceptional charge in this year's accounts for restructuring.

the £120 million purchase of the Italian STV last November. In the US Pilkington said it would rationalise its glass plants focusing on the production of laminated, tempered and encapsulated glass. The company will also cut costs at its German building products arm after a difficult trading year.



Leverton: "potential"

BICC and Trafalgar to operate motorway

BY ROSS TIEMAN INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BICC and Trafalgar House have scooped a £200 million contract to build and operate a new motorway linking the M1 to the A1 north of Leeds. BICC, which did not pre-qualify, replaced Wimpey as Trafalgar's partner after Wimpey was acquired by Tarmac in an asset swap.

Arjo chief executive bows out

ALAIN SOULAS, chief executive of Arjo Wiggins Appleton, the Anglo-French paper group, is to leave by mutual consent with a total compensation package expected to top £1 million (George Sivell writes).

Labour wants annual reports on training

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITISH companies will have to include details of their training performance in their annual reports if Labour comes to power, according to new proposals to be announced today.

room pay by the inquiry headed by Sir Richard Greenbury, chairman of Marks and Spencer, which last year recommended much greater disclosure of executive pay levels and increases in companies' annual reports.

Delta Air Lines advertisement featuring a stylized globe and the text: 'When you fly Delta nothing should get in the way of you relaxing. Our flight attendants recognise whether to leave you alone, to let you sleep or to make time for a friendly chat. That's why every passenger who gets off any of the 500 flights to our home town of Atlanta, the venue of the 1996 Olympics, arrives feeling like they can take on the world. For flight or ticket information call 0800 414 767. THE OFFICIAL AIRLINE OF THE BRITISH OLYMPIC TEAM. You'll love the way we fly.'

□ Pilkington's provision of excuses □ Ford backs Britain at a price □ Cheap insurance in a perfect world

Counting the wildebeest

□ SLIP down the rabbit hole, trip through the looking glass, Pilkington's finest, of course, and welcome to the Alice-in-Wonderland world of modern company accounts. A newborn babe or a casual onlooker might assume that the numbers companies are required to report by law have some bearing on events in the real world. The City, of course, knows better.

Accounting standards, rather like that age-old struggle between builders of warships and those making the guns that sink them, are essentially a race between one gang that provides the armour by tightening up the rules and another looking to blow loopholes in them.

The latest round in that struggle is never one-off provisions against profits. These are designed to cope with those little accidents — factories razed to the ground by fire, earthquake or rabid wildebeest, say — that are unpredictable and should therefore be separated from "proper" profits. We made this much, but except for those wildebeest, we would have made *this* much, so please, if you would, focus on the second figure.

How nice to be able to remove £X million from this year's profits, blaming those wildebeest rather than the management, and then take the credit for using them to inflate next year's profits.

The City, of course, is not fooled, as it is used to smoothing out any one-off humps to give a view on underlying performance — supposedly. Consider two releases that hit analysts' desks this week.

A profits model for Railtrack from SBC Warburg, in charge of the float this summer, assumes an £11 million exceptional loss for last year, and each of the next five financial years. In other words, one-off, unpredictable costs will cost exactly this, on each and every year to the end of the century. Just this number of wildebeest — no more, no less.

More seriously, yesterday Pilkington announced a £155 million exceptional charge to cover restructuring and job losses, even though the jobs have not yet been agreed or, apparently, even identified. A certain, but unquantified, number will be in St Helens, Pilkington's home base and the focus of that extraordinary local loyalty that helped fight off the 1986 bid from big bad conglomerate BTR.

This looks perilously close to what Sir David Tweedie, chairman of the Accounting Standards Board, calls "big bath"

accounting — you pour the bath as deep as you can, and then run off the water later to the depth needed. For Pilkington, which was being unhelpful about the actual numbers yesterday, it has two advantages. Big provisions allow pretty well any dividend to be paid, without reference to niceties such as whether it is covered by real earnings.

Second, the exceptionals, covering a three-year programme, come in just months before action from the ASB to tighten the accounting rules even further — action that might make such provisions rather less acceptable in the future.

Jaguar pounces on state subsidy

□ RELIEF and joy abound among the ragged-trousered engineers of Coventry and the bare-footed teenagers of Castle Bromwich. The grateful indigent of the English Midlands will doubtless wave multi-starred European Union flags gratefully at any passing Volkswagen or Renault in case they should



contain one of those stern but fair officials from Brussels. At last, these officials have graciously permitted the British Government to hand £40 million smack-ers, as well as £40 million in kind, to Ford. This aid succeeded in persuading America's number two auto group to build its new small Jaguar car in our starving regional outpost.

Otherwise, so it is said, Ford might well have made the highly traditional, hand-crafted Old-Englishe Jaguar in Hicksville, Michigan, the Philippines or Sri Lanka. You might think that would not have been the ideal marketing play if the plan was to challenge the BMW 5 series with classic British craftsmanship. But Ford certainly convinced

those hard-headed types at the DTI that it was serious and that this was the deal.

Who is quibbling, in any case? State aid to Jaguar is plainly a quite different proposition from foreign state aid for Air France, Iberian Airways or Groupe Bull. To start with, they are state-controlled. Jaguar only used to be. The Government then acted smartly to allow a Ford takeover, thinking this would stop Jaguar sponging off the taxpayers.

Britain's £80 million boost for Jaguar output was also aimed to add new competition for other European car producers, whereas continental state aid for airlines was intended to help close part of the industry's excess capacity. Clearly, the British aid is more creative and since competition is good, it must be good for our continental competitors.

The taxpayers' bill for the belated Jaguar 2.4 replacement is also smaller, comfortably under £100 million compared with the billions pumped into foreign airlines. That is a small price, given that subsidy is still the way of the big-project world. Taxpayers should rejoice too and

trust that Ford markets this exciting new car so well that no-one could conceive of Jaguars being made anywhere else.

Insurers take cover in claim-free zone

□ THE rewards for a blameless existence are no longer confined to the afterlife — just promise to walk a safe but dull path in the here-and-now. If you are in a part of the country that has never suffered from floods or subsidence, if you have never been burgled, have driven for 20 years without a scratch on your car, if you live as far as possible from a major city, in short, if you are never likely to make a claim, then, boy, do we have an insurance policy for you.

If, like the rest of us, you have suffered the odd prang, had your video recorder stolen and lost your luggage at a foreign airport, the response is less friendly.

Insurers make much of their ability to pinpoint risk exactly. Why, they ask, should the careful driver in a provincial town be made to pay for the excesses of

the boy racer in the city? But the point of insurance is that risk is pooled. If the industry's argument was taken to its logical conclusion, each of us would be assessed individually.

The possibility of genetic testing brings that logical conclusion much nearer. Swiss Re has drawn back, but some insurers in the United States already require customers to take tests before they buy life insurance. Penalising all but the physically and mentally perfect raises serious moral questions. By contrast, no one should be forced to insure the uninsurable. But most of us fall somewhere between the two.

Change of course

□ THERE'S a bit of leakage in the pipes in Mid Kent. The small water company of the same name was five years ago partially sealed against any intrusions from the French Générale des Eaux. The MMC told General Utilities, its UK arm, to cut its stake in Mid Kent to 19.5 per cent and not to team up with others to take that holding higher. But last December, GU chose to gang up with SAUR, another French concern, to propose a bid for Mid Kent. So what has changed in five years? We may soon learn from the courts whether undertakings made to the MMC really do hold water.

Caradon's profits slump after 'horrendous 1995'

By Sarah Bagnall

PETER JANSEN, chief executive at Caradon, said 1995 had been "horrendous" and the worst year of recession for the building products group.

He said: "Our main markets of North America, UK and Germany behaved miserably. In the first half, we saw a sharp decline in the US, followed in the second half by very sharp declines in the UK and Germany. It is very unusual for all these markets to give problems at the same time."

The downturn resulted in a sharp fall in pre-tax profits from £201.2 million to £114.3 million in the year to December 31. The

underlying decline was exacerbated by £37.3 million of exceptional charges, the bulk of which had been flagged at the interim stage in September. Part of the charge was to cover the cost of 1,600 job cuts previously announced.

In January it emerged that the Stock Exchange had passed to the Department of Trade and Industry the results of its investigation into share dealings ahead of the September profit warning. Mr Jansen said the company had not been contacted by the DTI.

The sharp drop in profits was on the back of a small rise

in sales from £2 billion to £2.1 billion. Acquisitions contributed £156.8 million to sales and £12 million to pre-exceptional operating profits.

Mr Jansen said action was taken as soon as the downturns in the major markets had been identified. "We have accelerated our cost reduction programme, which will be largely completed by the end of the first quarter of 1996," he said. The programme is expected to reap cost benefits of about £25 million in addition to the £25 million cost savings already achieved last year.

All but one of the group's

businesses saw pre-exceptional profits fall. Plumbing, 1994's biggest profit contributor, reported a 51.6 per cent slump in post-exceptional operating profits to £24.1 million. Stripping out the impact of exceptional charges and profits fell 25.7 per cent to £37 million. Mr Jansen said the group's prospects for the current year were underpinned by its strong market positions, cost reductions and new product launches. The final dividend, due June 5, was held at 6.6p making an unchanged total for the year of 9.5p. The shares rose 1p to 204p.

Apple set for \$700m first-quarter loss

By Richard Thomson in New York

APPLE COMPUTER expects to incur a \$700 million loss in the first quarter, although its chairman said the company's problems were "fixable". As the shares plunged to a low of \$23.8, against more than \$50 last summer, Gilbert Amelio, the new chairman, gave a gloomy outlook for the next few months, with revenues and shipments substantially below last year's levels, and millions of dollars of old inventory left unsold.

Although the computer group had given warning that the current quarter's loss would be more than the \$69

million loss for the final quarter of last year, Wall Street had not expected such a large deficit. The company said that it was due to inventory write-downs and restructuring charges, which include axing about 1,300 employees earlier this year.

"I'm confident at this point that I know what the problems are and that they are fixable," said Mr Amelio. Apple would unveil its plans for recovery by early May, he added. The latest loss is a further blow to investor confidence in Apple, which suspended the previous quarter's dividend.

Barratt to build £90m land fund

By Carl Mortished

BARRATT Developments, the housebuilder, is raising £90 million through a rights issue to fund an increase in its land bank, aimed at raising output from 7,000 homes a year to 11,000 in the next three years.

Barratt is offering one new share for every four held at 200p each in its first cash call since 1982. Two new divisions will be established, one in Central London, another in the Thames Valley.

Announcing a 19 per cent increase in half-year profits to £19.1 million before tax, Sir Lawrie Barratt, chairman, said that the company would continue to increase market share even in the absence of a turnaround in the housing

market. He reported net reservations up 7.5 per cent in revenue terms. Sir Lawrie, scornful of suggestions that Barratt would use the funds to takeover other housebuilders, said: "We will look at them as a route to buy land but we won't pay a premium to anyone. You should get a discount for buying in bulk."

The company sold 3,002 houses in the half year to December, 12 per cent up on the previous year, at an average price of £81,600 and increase its land bank to 18,991 units. The interim dividend of 2.75p, up 10 per cent and covered 2.5 times by earnings.

ASSET MANAGEMENT

US\$ 270 000 000

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So it is clear we are not speaking lightly when we say: "Go ahead. You can rely on us."

INSURANCE & INVESTMENT

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Win some, lose some

JAGUAR will go to Birmingham, thanks to an agreement reached by the Department of Trade and Industry and the European Commission yesterday...

Pot du jour

ONLY foolhardy foodies would take the advice of the new Egon Ronay's Guide 1996 Oriental Restaurants...



Ronay; judging panel

JAMES CAPEL analysts are clearly great beef eaters. The winners in this fortnight's stock selection, paraded in its fortnightly newsletter...

Smoke alarm

IN THESE health conscious days, smoking has become a minority habit for all but a handful of public figures. The cigar-smoking Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke...

Self service

GARDNER Merchant, the UK's largest caterer, which packs 3,000 business-size lunch boxes for the Institute of Directors conference at the Royal Albert Hall every year...

MORAG PRESTON

ECONOMIC VIEW

Hong Kong becomes a magnet for foreign cash

Philip Bowring on British pension fund investment in the colony

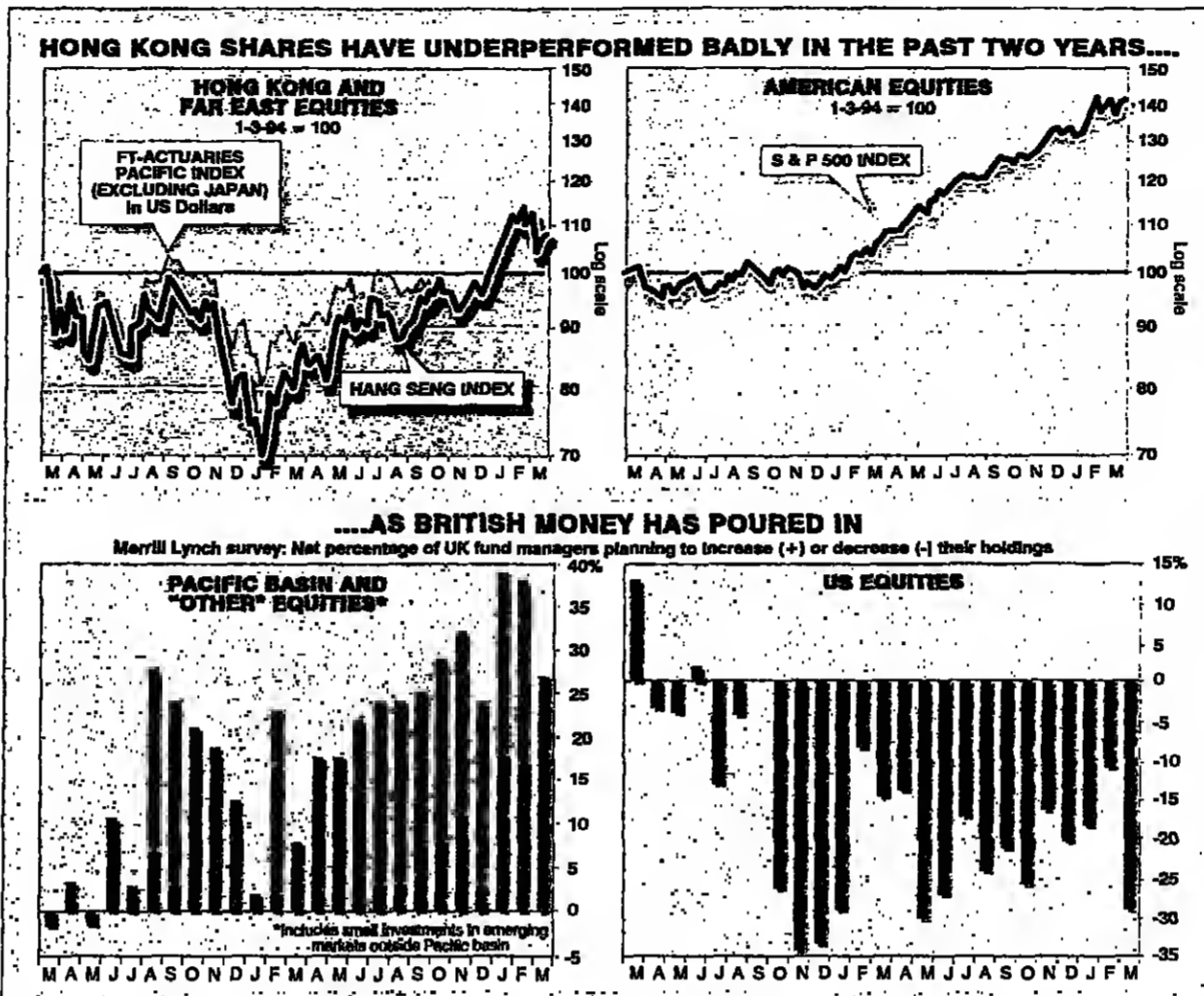
It is one of those items that really belongs in Ripley's Believe It Not. Whether future British retirees still smarting from the Robert Maxwell episode would be amused by it is debatable...

Peking's threats against Hong Kong's constitutional arrangements and Taiwan have underlined the political dangers to an economy that depends so much on international confidence and China's relations with the West rather than on what it produces...

Forgetful politics, Hong Kong is ludicrously over-weighted. According to figures on UK pension fund asset allocation, these funds in the last quarter of 1995 had 5.8 per cent of their total assets invested in the markets grouped under the heading "Pacific Rim excluding Japan"...

Data from Pacific Rim and Asia ex-Japan mutual funds and anecdotal evidence indicates that the norm for such funds is to invest 25-40 per cent of assets in Hong Kong. Salomon Brothers recently recommended a 42 per cent HK weighting for Asia ex-Japan...

On a longer view, Hong Kong companies have performed well in terms of earnings growth. But presumably the fund managers have some inkling of the fact that most major Hong Kong companies owe their high levels of profitability to the oligarchical arrangements that prevail in Hong Kong's property, banking and utility sectors and to



asset-price inflation occasioned by years of negative real interest rates that have only recently ended. They may also have noticed that over the years asset-price inflation has been helped along by a weak currency. The Hong Kong dollar has fallen 50 per cent against sterling...

whenever "emerging markets" or "Asia" become hot themes. This applies almost as much to US investors as Britons. The Americans pumped US\$6 billion into Hong Kong in 1993 and 1994 and returned with a vengeance in late 1995 after a lull...

Hong Kong, South Korea and Taiwan have several companies that are global leaders. They also have domestic consumer markets far bigger and faster growing than Hong Kong. Yet they attract only a fraction of the pension money supposedly being invested in the Asia concept...

back, Hong Kong is the best place in the region to base fund management operations. Managers, being human, tend to believe they live at the centre of the world, Singapore and Malaysia, with their colonial linkages of language, laws and schools ride naturally on some aspects of the cultural bandwagon...

Contrary to received wisdom in London, Hong Kong is not a small shareholders' paradise

will give is that Hong Kong is an open and liquid market. But it is no bigger than Taiwan. True, it is more open to foreigners, but Singapore attracts much investment in spite of restrictions on foreign ownership of top companies that have led to foreign institutions paying huge premiums for a presence...

Pension funds, one might suppose, were investing for the long term not for fast in-and-out profit, for the benefit of their beneficiaries rather than the brokers. Other economies have infinitely better claims to being the cutting edge of the new Asia. Hong Kong is a narrowly focused market in a mature economy. It shares with Malaysia and Singapore (thanks to the foreigners) a market capitalisation to GDP ratio of well over 200 per cent - far higher than found elsewhere in the world. Unlike

BUSINESS LETTERS

Return to apprenticeships needed

From Mr Thomas P. Hartley Sir, Today's business section contains a report, "Bosses worried over education of job applicants, March 25," on the IoD's study regarding the failure of the education system to provide suitable candidates for industrial training...

A combination of daytime work and evening education, not only weeds out non-performers, but instils in those with ambition and self-motivation, a sense of responsibility and a desire to progress towards desirable personal goals.

Yours faithfully, THOMAS P. HARTLEY, Blanford Cottage, 23 Blanford Road, Reigate, Surrey.

From Mr A. J. F. Hill

Sir, It isn't only the Lloyd's names who are displeased by the recent settlement proposals. There are now about 3,200 executors who are personally liable for the deceased names' debts.

Some of them, such as myself, act for an estate that is not protected by estate plan protection. For us, a settle-

The cure for telecommunication ills

From Mr Bill Dixon Sir, The UK telecommunication's industry is in trouble. Twelve years of tinkering with competition at the boundary level leaves BT with a dominant market share, reinforced by the control it exerts over its competitors as the main supplier of interconnect.

The price reductions achieved by regulation are nothing special for a high-tech business. Regulation is ever more interventionist and adversarial; BT cannot take ordinary management decisions about its products and prices, while competitors find it difficult to enter the market without the appropriate

Lloyd's - just expected to sanction the losses - or pay them personally if we trust that the Equitas arrangements as proposed will be adequate - and subsequently find they are not.

Yours faithfully, ADRIAN HILL, Executor to J. K. Hill, 8 Ebner Street, SW1.

Executors liable for dead names' debts

ment that promises "finality" - but which cannot deliver FINALITY (because Equitas is so open-ended) is worse than useless.

Lloyd's has made absolutely no attempt to inform or advise executors on how to proceed - we are not allowed into

Letters to the Business section of The Times can be sent by fax on 0171-762 5112.

Labour sets the agenda for a skill revolution

Philip Bassett on the Opposition's controversial training plans

Today, the Labour party will say: "We believe that government does have a responsibility to set the framework for a skills revolution, and to play a role in making that happen. A Labour government will accept the responsibility which the Tories have shunned."

Bold words from the Labour party's new policy proposals on training, to be unveiled today. It will set out key proposals on training which business leaders have been eager to hear. But some traditional Labour supporters, trade union leaders, for instance, see the final, formal abandonment of a commitment to a training levy on employers who fail to train, as yet another retrograde step by new Labour.

John Edmonds of the GMB general union, views the move away from the five guaranteed days training a year in the document, The Skills Revolution - Preparing Britain for the 21st Century, as a step in the wrong direction, and is understood to have made his views known to party leaders at a private meeting. Careful work has gone on in recent weeks with sceptics, but having won support for the document from Labour's national executive yesterday, the party leadership is preparing to go public today with what some clearly view as a typical watering down of previous solid commitments.

Probably of greater importance is the criticism which says that the paper describes and analyses well the scale of the training gap facing Britain, but then puts forward a series of policy proposals which are flagrantly insufficient to meet it. Critics see the starting point as the need to scrap the stick of the training levy in favour of the carrot of individual and enterprise-level incentives.

Labour argues that current training provision in Britain is fragmented, unsorted to the modern labour market, and largely ignored. Key Labour figures have been made aware of research showing that four-fifths of companies in Britain do not train their workforces, not because they are opposed to training - but because they are operating in product

markets which simply do not need higher skill levels for profitability.

However short-term that view is, it is dominant in Britain, especially among small firms. Britain's training problem does not lie with Marks & Spencer or ICI but with the vast swathe of companies who know they can get by without training.

A training levy was meant to address just this problem by forcing companies to train, or face a fine. But the levy did not achieve that. Labour says that the levy system reinforced rigid sectoral barriers, failed to cover many employment areas altogether, was highly bureaucratic and could not match the training performance of some of Britain's key competitors. But where sectors still want to keep their boards and their levies, such as engineering construction and building, Labour says the levy will remain in place - a point which the party will say demonstrates clearly its intention to work with industry and not against it. Labour's twofold plan - tax incentives for employees to take up tripartite-funded individual learning accounts (ILAs), under which people might be able to use smart cards to buy training, together with linking companies attaining the training-based Investors in People standard - has incentives, though critics argue it dunks the deadweight problem: how do you avoid giving free government money to companies which already train, or conversely why should such companies be penalised for training if a way is found of directing help only at firms which do not train.

ILAs will be taken up mainly by sophisticated labour market participants. For its part, the Labour leadership is convinced it has found a winner with the proposals, which it is convinced will find strong favour with both business and individuals. "In five years' time," says one key new Labour adviser, "people will look back on this as a turning point. That's how important to business, the economy and to individual people our training proposals will be."

6 People will look back on this as a turning point?

Anatole Kaletsky is away for two weeks

Advertisement for Merchant Investors Assurance featuring a large graphic of a hand holding a ring and text: YOUR PENSION: IN YOUR OWN TIME, IN YOUR OWN WAY.

Federal Reserve 'spending too much'

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

THE Federal Reserve Board has been severely criticised by the General Accounting Office...

The GAO report, the result of a two-year investigation, says the central bank's control of its own spending is inadequate...

The news of the central bank's profligacy has caused annoyance among politicians in Capitol Hill...

The GAO also said that a \$3.7 billion contingency fund, nearly half of it built up since Mr Greenspan became Chairman in 1988...

Although the GAO did not set out to criticise the way the central bank carried out its main functions...



Motoring on: David McGibbon, financial director, left, and Bill Hughes, chairman and chief executive of Grampian Holdings yesterday

Higgs and Hill suffers as housing sector stays flat

By MARTIN BARROW

HIGGS and HILL, the UK construction company, yesterday warned shareholders that its markets remain stubbornly flat...

said it had managed to break even in 1995 before provisions, earning profits of just £72,000 before tax...

Hospital provision was in line with a statement to shareholders made in December, restructuring charges have increased...

ground and the outlook for the market, the board has decided to restructure fundamentally its activities in this area...

BSE 'will not affect' Grampian

By ERIC REGULY

GRAMPIAN HOLDINGS, the Scottish veterinary services, transport and sporting goods group said the likely slaughter of millions of cattle due to the BSE scare will not affect its operations...

The company wants to expand its cattle vaccine business and is launching a new bovine vaccine called BVD. But bovine products are likely to be only a small proportion of sales for some time.

The company reported a pre-tax profit of £10.5 million in the year to December 31, up 23 per cent on the comparable period...

Grampian said that its transport and sporting goods divisions reported stronger results, though profits on its veterinary side declined by 6.1 per cent to £4.5 million.

Iceland buys back shares

By SARAH BAGNALL

ICELAND, the frozen food retailer, yesterday spent £42 million buying back its own shares...

shares at 156p. The shares closed yesterday at 157p, the same as the day before.

Mr Leigh said: "Given the low levels of interest rates, it is cheaper for us to borrow money rather than service the share base."

secondary shareholders. The reduction in its capital base would have cut the bill by £1.5 million. However, Mr Leigh reiterated the company's intention to increase its dividend at a faster rate than the growth of its earnings...

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Croda falls after shift in emphasis

A SHIFT out of cosmetics and toiletries cost Croda International £14.1 million and helped to cut pre-tax profits from £42.8 million to £25.3 million...

The company, which saw a slowdown in the second half of the year, said that trading looked likely to improve this year, although it thought most of the growth would come outside Europe...

TransTec in the black

TRANSTEC, the automotive products and controls company, returned to profit in 1995, earning £6.7 million before tax. In the previous year, the company incurred losses of £12.3 million after exceptional restructuring costs...

Aer Lingus soars

AER LINGUS, the Irish national flag carrier, said yesterday it could only fulfill its potential by engaging in profitable alliances, partnerships and joint venture arrangements with other international carriers...

Rutland Trust advances

RUTLAND TRUST, the port services and corporate finance company that acquired Thamesport, the deep water container port, for £52.5 million last year, lifted 1995 pre-tax profits to £12.63 million from £9.3 million in the year...

Frederick Cooper falls

PROFITS at Frederick Cooper, the specialist coatings, architectural hardware and electrical products group, fell to £1.74 million before tax in the six months to January 31 from £3.4 million...

Advertisement for The Times Mees Pierson Corporate Golf Challenge. Includes title 'For your company golf day... it's the business', a registration form, and logos for sponsors like Citroen, Marriott, and Golf World.

Advertisement for The Sunday Times 'Maiden Britain' featuring supermodels. Includes title 'THE SUNDAY TIMES MAIDEN BRITAIN', a photo of Naomi Campbell, and text 'The new supermodels who won't get out of school for less than £5,000 a day are at the forefront of the latest Brit revolution in fashion, design and photography...'.

Main table containing unit trust prices, organized into columns with headers like 'Fund Name', 'Unit Price', and 'Change'. Includes various fund categories such as Equity, Bond, and Money Market.

Advertisement for 'Hunting for Perfection' featuring a cat and a bottle of 'OLD SCOTCH WHISKY'. Text includes 'Excellent liquidity!', 'Famously smooth, distinctively dry - a real asset in your drink portfolio.', and 'Brewed by Moland of Abingdon. Est'd 1711.'



Could you write a screenplay with the impressive sweep of Orson Welles's classic Citizen Kane?



... or one to rival the intimacy and sophisticated wit of Woody Allen's great comedy Annie Hall?

THE TIMES FILMS ARTS



Would King Kong love to get his great hairy hands on your exciting, action-packed dialogue?



If so, enter our competition and you could soon be pitching your ideas to the big studios

Hey, kid, you want to be in movies? The Times Screenwriting Competition offers aspiring auteurs their big break

Write yourself onto the silver screen

Just because Emma Thompson brought home an Oscar this week for her screenplay of Sense and Sensibility...

When The Times launched its Screenwriting Competition last year, the four judges uncovered more talent than they might have expected...

Norma Heyman, the independent producer of Dangerous Liaisons who has just finished work on Christopher Hampton's script of The Secret Agent...

Even last year's winner, Richard Rees - just back from a week in Hollywood, telling agents and studios about his script of The Mercenary's Tale...

As Aukin points out: 'Scenes can be anything, not necessarily dialogue. This is the movies.'



THE TIMES SCREEN WRITING COMPETITION

... or one to rival the intimacy and sophisticated wit of Woody Allen's great comedy Annie Hall?

As another of the judges, Tim Bevan, whose production company Working Title made Four Weddings and a Funeral...

The last of the four judges, Mark Shivas - head of films at the BBC who is in post-production with a film of Roddy Doyle's The Van...

things he already knows, or things he does not need to know.

To offer some guidance to novices entering this year's competition, the judges have picked two examples of screenwriting that they feel highlight what good writing should do...

What is it about this extract from Four Weddings between Charles (Hugh Grant) and Tom (James Fleet) that makes it stand out as a piece of screenwriting?

For David Aukin, whose recent productions include Trainspotting, the scene "marks the emotional turning point in the story."

Heyman praises the scene for "writing of the finest order. It manages to be both profound and accessible... economical, yet very effective and clever."

Of the excerpt from Dead Man Walking, Shivas says: "Susan Sarandon's mother has just questioned her motives in helping a killer (Sean Penn). This is a scene where Sarandon [Helen] tries to find out something about Matt [Penn] and his family..."

Mel Brooks once declared that "anybody can direct; there are only 11 good writers". Well, this is your chance to prove you are the twelfth.

JOE JOSEPH



Speak up, we want to hear you: Rowan Atkinson as the vicar in Four Weddings and a Funeral, the most successful British film ever

FOUR WEDDINGS AND A FUNERAL

WALK, CHARLIE? TOM: Yes. That would be grand. CHARLES: They begin to stride. TOM: Gosh, that was some display, wasn't it - never felt like that - I mean, something vaguely similar for Jilly when I was young... CHARLES: Jilly? TOM: Labrador. CHARLES: Ah, it's odd, isn't it - all that time we were single and carefree, we never noticed our two best friends were to all extents and purposes married. TOM: You're right. Traitors in our midst. CHARLES smiles. TOM (cont'd): In a way I think death is hardest for the parents, don't you? I hope I die before my children. CHARLES: Tom - one thing I find really... (Can't find the word) is your total confidence you will get married. What if you never find the right girl? TOM: Sorry? CHARLES: I mean surely if that service shows anything it shows there is such a thing as a perfect match. And if we can't find that perfect match, or can't die them down - if we can't be like Gareth and Matthew, surely we should let it be? Some of us just aren't going to get married. TOM: Well, I don't know, Charlie, truth is - unlike you, I've never expected the thunderbolt - always hoped I'd just meet some nice, friendly girl, like the look of her, hope the look of me doesn't make her physically sick - then pop the question and settle down and be happy. CHARLES takes this in. TOM (cont'd): It worked for my parents... well, apart from the divorce and all that. CHARLES: Dear Tom, you're very wise. Maybe all this one true love stuff gets you nowhere. And, as they walk on... TOM: I shall miss Gareth most awfully. ... an alarm clock rings.

DEAD MAN WALKING

SCENE 68 - MCS - THROUGH MESH SCREEN - MATT LOOKS RFG AT OS. HELEN: MATT: My Daddy took me to a bar when I was twelve and told me to pick my whiskey, so, there was all these bottles behind the bar, and I pointed up there and I said, "I'll take that one there with the pretty turkey on it." SCENE 69 - MCS - THROUGH MESH SCREEN - HELEN LOOKS LFG AT OS. MATT: MATT: (OFF) The guys in the bar laughed their butts off. We got drunk as a couple of coots that night. SCENE 70 - MS - MATT LOOKS RFG THROUGH THE MESH SCREEN AT HELEN, CAMERA MOVING IN. MATT: My Daddy was a good man. Sharecropper, hard worker. That's the one thing I got from him: working hands. SCENE 71 - MS - HELEN LOOKS LFG THROUGH THE MESH SCREEN AT MATT. HELEN: How old were you when he died? MATT: Fourteen. HELEN: Hmm. SCENE 72 - MCS - THROUGH MESH SCREEN - MATT EXHALES CIGARETTE SMOKE AND LOOKS RFG AT OS. HELEN: MATT: (exhales) Why's you a nun? SCENE 73 - MS - HELEN LOOKS LFG THROUGH THE MESH SCREEN AT MATT, CAMERA MOVING IN. HELEN: I was drawn to it, I guess. I mean, that's a hard question to answer. It's like asking you why you're a con... SCENE 74 - MCS - THROUGH MESH SCREEN - MATT LOOKS RFG. HELEN: (OFF) ...vict. MATT: Bad luck. HELEN: (OFF) Good luck, then. SCENE 75 - MCS - THROUGH MESH SCREEN - HELEN LOOKS LFG. HELEN: I had a loving family, a lot of support. I guess I felt obliged to give some of it back. SCENE 76 - MCS - THROUGH MESH SCREEN - MATT LOOKS RFG. MATT: Don't you miss havin' a man? Don't you want to get married, fall in love, have sex? SCENE 77 - MCS - THROUGH MESH SCREEN - HELEN LOOKS LFG. SCENE 78 - MCS - THROUGH MESH SCREEN - MATT LOOKS RFG. MATT: What, you don't want to talk about it? SCENE 79 - MCS - THROUGH MESH SCREEN - HELEN LOOKS LFG. HELEN: Well, I have close friends, men and women. I've never experienced sexual intimacy, but there's other ways of being close. Sharing your dreams, your thoughts, your feelings. SCENE 80 - MCS - MATT LOOKS RFG AT OS. HELEN: HELEN: (OFF) That's hein' intimate, too. MATT: We got intimacy right now, don't we, Sister? SCENE 81 - MCS - HELEN LOOKS LFG AT OS. MATT: HELEN: I went to see your mother. She said she'd appear at the pardon... SCENE 82 - MCS - MATT LOOKS RFG. HELEN: (OFF) ... board hearing if you want her to. MATT: I like being alone with you. You're looking real good to me. SCENE 83 - MCS - HELEN LOOKS LFG. HELEN: Look at you. Death is breathing down your neck and you're playing your little Matt-on-the-make games. SCENE 84 - MCS - MATT LOOKS RFG. HELEN: (OFF) I'm not here for your amusement, Matthew. Show some respect. MATT: Why should I respect you? 'Cause you're a nun? 'Cause you wear a little cross around your neck? SCENE 85 - CS - HELEN LOOKS LFG AT OS. MATT: HELEN: Because I'm a person. Every person deserves respect. SCENE 86 - CS - MATT LOOKS RFG AT OS. HELEN, CAMERA TILTING DOWN AS HE TAKES A DRAG FROM HIS CIGARETTE. SCENE 87 - CS - HELEN LOOKS LFG. HELEN: What's the answer, what's it gonna be with your Mama? LUCILLE: (VO) Mattie had a hard life, but he was a good boy. SCENE 88 - INT. PARDON BOARD HEARING ROOM - DAY - MS - LUCILLE SITS AT THE DEFENDANT'S TABLE. AN ATTORNEY SITS L OF HER, MATT SITS R OF HER. HILTON SITS R OF MATT AND LOOKS LFG AT LUCILLE. HELEN AND COLLEEN ARE BG. LUCILLE: (crying) When he was six, he... LUCILLE DROPS HER HEAD TO THE TABLE SOBBING. LUCILLE: (Sobs) SCENE 89 - FS - PAST THE FG PARDON REVIEW BOARD, ACROSS THE ROOM TO THE DEFENDANT'S TABLE. LUCILLE IS HELPED UP BY ONE OF THE ATTORNEYS AND HELEN. HILTON GRABS THE MICROPHONE AND PLACES IT IN FRONT OF HIM AS HELEN WALKS LUCILLE R. LUCILLE: (Cries) SCENE 90 - FS - HELEN WALKS LUCILLE FG UP THE AISLE. THE PARDON REVIEW BOARD IS BG. HILTON: Ladies and gentlemen, let's be honest. You're not gonna find many rich people on Death Row. Matthew Poncelet's here today because he's poor.

THE TIMES SCREENWRITING COMPETITION 1996

Your chance to become a Hollywood scriptwriter

Today The Times launches the 1996 Screenwriting Competition which aims to find Britain's top filmwriting talent. This prestigious competition, now in its second year, offers a first prize of an all-expenses-paid trip to Hollywood with introductions to key executives at major studios for the winner to pitch his or her script. Accommodation will be at the famed Chateau Marmont hotel on Sunset Boulevard, the haunt of many screenwriters. In addition the winner, and four runners-up, will be offered workshops with the judges who will provide advice on developing the scripts. This year's competition will be judged by David Aukin, head of drama at Channel 4 Television, Tim Bevan, managing director of Working Title Films, Norma Heyman, managing director of NFF Productions and Mark Shivas, head of films for BBC television. Last year's winner was Richard Rees, a partner in a press agency from Chesham, Cambridgeshire, whose film script set in the English Civil War beat more than 2,000 other budding scriptwriters. Mr Rees has returned from Hollywood with a list of influential contacts and now has one of the best agents in the business at ICM.

HOW TO ENTER: Collect four of the six screenwriting tokens which will be published over the next week (taken one appears below) and send us your entry, which should be written in English, typed and double-spaced on A4 paper and presented in the following form: a) a 100-word precis which sells your film script and includes the title b) a treatment of not more than 750 words incorporating the story, characters, structure and genre, together with your name, address, and daytime telephone number at the top of the first sheet, and c) three consecutive sample scenes submitted on a minimum of two A4 pages. Send your entry to: The Times Screenwriting Competition 1996, PO Box 510, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire LU7 8QS. Closing date for entries is first post Thursday May 9, 1996.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: 1. Original film treatments only will be considered; adaptations or wholly animated films are ineligible. 2. Entries must be written in English, typed and double spaced on A4 paper with pages clearly numbered, and accompanied by four differently numbered Times Screenwriting tokens. Full filmscripts will not be accepted. Please do not use staples, pins or paper clips and do not fold entries. 3. The competition is open to readers aged 16 and over who have had no feature film credits in the professional cinema. 4. Scripts submitted in 1995 are not eligible for resubmission. 5. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. 6. A stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed if you wish your entry to be returned. 7. Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply. The competition organisers and judges, on behalf of their respective organisations, make it clear that any submitted entries are for the purpose of the competition only. In addition, none of these parties can accept responsibility or liability in respect of any future production which may inadvertently bear a resemblance to any treatment or script submitted.



Movie advertisement for CYCLO. Winner Best Film - Golden Lion, International Critics Prize Venice Film Festival. 'AN EXTRAORDINARY MOVIE' 'ASTOUNDING'. 'DEVASTATING... HAS TO BE SEEN.' FROM THE DIRECTOR OF 'THE SCENT OF GREEN PAPPYRA'. TONY LEUNG CHIU-WAI, LE VAN LOC, TRAN NU YEN KHE. A FILM BY TRAN ANH HUNG. EXCLUSIVE LONDON PRESENTATION MGM SWISS CENTRE AND SELECTED CINEMAS NATIONWIDE.

Advertisement for Bach: St Matthew Passion by Richard Hickox. Fri 5 Apr 6.00pm. City of London Sinfonia, Joyful Company of Singers, Thomas Randle Evangelist, Matthew Best Christus, Rebecca Evans soprano, Pamela Helen Stephen mezzo-soprano, Nell Archer tenor, Richard Jackson bass. Barbican Hall 0171 638 8891 (Mon - 9pm daily).

THE TIME... An irc fo... S... THIS W... HOW TO BOOK...



CHOICE 1 John Hannah stars in Strindberg's tale of erotic passion, Miss Julie

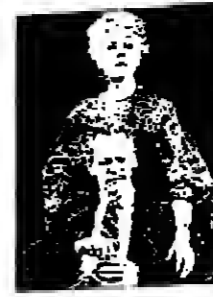


CHOICE 2 Final week in Plymouth for F. Murray Abraham in the new Tolstoy

THE TIMES ARTS



THEATRE 1 Stephen Sondheim loses his wit in his latest musical Passion, now arrived in the West End



THEATRE 2 Edward Albee's early play, A Delicate Balance, makes a welcome comeback in Nottingham

LONDON

MISS JULIE: Polly Teale directs Susan Lynch and John Hannah in Strindberg's tale of erotic passion and doom...

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

plaza, including Dave Brubeck's "one of the greatest jazz pianists I have ever heard" judge by yourself tonight...

CONVENTRY

Opening night for Steinbeck's mighty Of Mice and Men, Martin Harvey directs Peter Sherry and Michael Gunn...

Soppy Sondheim loses the plot

Passion Queen's

Would you believe it if one of the celebrities currently being pursued by an obsessive man were to fall deeply in love with her stalker?



Eternal triangle: Helen Hobson as Clara, Maria Friedman as Fosca and Michael Ball as the hapless Giorgio

As their current London revivals emphasise, both those shows are shrewd, suspicious and pretty cynical where love is concerned...

Kith and break up

A Delicate Balance Playhouse, Nottingham

and a drill sergeant, maintains the family's balance - at a price. Her frequent drunk sister Claire (Marry Cruickshank) lives with them...

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED) The RSC's (reduced Shakespeare Company) popular, pony rough-handing of the Bard...

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

NEW RELEASES

CYCLO (18) Over-10-year-old portrait of Ho Chi Minh City's urban hell from the director of The Scent of Green Papaya...

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and release indicated with the symbol (+) on release across the country

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Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and release indicated with the symbol (+) on release across the country

ENTERTAINMENTS

Grid of entertainment listings including art galleries, theatres, and cinema listings across various venues like Apollo Labatts, The Changing Room, and others.

Large advertisement on the right side of the page, featuring a portrait of a man and the text 'Human Rights' and 'Police'.

Tim Waterstone on the broad scope and high drama of a cultural chameleon's encounter with Dark Age Britain

One of the problems with reviewing a Melvyn Bragg novel is how to keep an open mind. We see him on our television screens engaging with writers as diverse as Martin Amis, Dame Barbara Cartland, Edward Albee and Tom Sharpe, so it is difficult not to build up expectations about the kind of fiction which might emerge from this cultural chameleon.

A romance of miracles and saints

CREDO
By Melvyn Bragg
Septre, £16.99

murder of a rapist nobleman who was to be her husband. There follows a lifelong struggle between Bega's vocation as a bride of Christ, and her passion for Padric. Bega's journey of spiritual uncertainty is at the core of the book, as she is charged to "live for the faith" — despite her naturally willful inclination to die for it.



Bragg: elemental sensibility

The emotional pacing of the love story is well sustained against a large canvas of events and characters, some fictional, some drawn from historical accounts. Bragg seems wholly comfortable with the sweep of the period, in his own words an age "of saints, scholars, miracles, abbeys, gospels, crosses and the survival of the British".

of the world that Bragg evokes. Known for his love of the Romantics, it seems that he has found in the Dark Ages another period when landscape and inner life merged into one another. He succeeds in creating a world dominated by the elements, where the characters' spiritual anxieties find constant correspondence in the physical world around them.

prevailing fashion for pared-down prose, the headlong rush and occasional clumsiness of Bragg's writing will not be to everyone's taste. I was puzzled too by the omission of Caedmon, the first named English poet, who lived at Whitby under St Hilda; it is surely too good an opportunity to miss out the father of English poetry.

Tim Waterstone's third novel, A Passage of Lives, will be published in August by Hodder Headline.

Creating language at a stroke

Jean Aitchison
GROOMING, GOSSIP AND THE EVOLUTION OF LANGUAGE
By Robin Dunbar
Faber, £15.99

To be groomed by a monkey is to experience primordial emotions... the gradual surrender to another's avid fingers sliding expertly across bare skin... You begin to relax into the sheer intensity of the business. These words from the beginning of Robin Dunbar's book lead one to wonder how professors of psychology at the University of Liverpool spend their spare time.

This, he suggests, is "the number of people you would not feel embarrassed about joining uninvited for a drink if you happened to bump into them in a bar". It's roughly the number of living descendants an ancestral couple might have produced in hunter-gatherer societies.

As others have pointed out, and as Dunbar himself admits, it is "very easy to play the numerologist and find numbers to fit whatever size your theory requires". So he is not necessarily right in his numbers game. But he has made perhaps the first serious attempt to link the observation that language is a substitute for grooming with a possible explanation for why this came about.



Language may have replaced manual grooming: The Lesson in the Use of the Fan (detail), Abraham Solomon (1824-62)

the Machiavellian intelligence hypothesis. Successful deception requires a "theory of mind", an ability to imagine the viewpoint of others.

flourishing, and is unaware of recent ideas — perhaps not surprising in someone who apart from his grooming-gossip work is best known for his study of the social strategies of gelada baboons. His comments on actual speech are sparse, and sometimes inaccurate, as with his brief excursion into the reconstruction of early languages.

system are attached to the wrong chapter. Overall, the author has surrounded a kernel of interesting speculation with a wrapping of airy persiflage, some of it misleading. But he has shown that gossip about gossip is more than "mere windy talk".

Jean Aitchison is the Rupert Murdoch Professor of Language and Communication of Oxford University; her book The Seeds of Speech: Language, Origin and Evolution will be published in April by Cambridge University Press

Secret love and a true heroine

John Grigg
FRANCES COUNTESS
LOYD GEORGE
More than a Mistress
By Ruth Longford
Gracwing, £15.99

From 1913 until the death of his first wife, Margaret, in 1941, David Lloyd George was in effect a bigamist. In the former year he pledged himself secretly to Frances Stevenson, a woman young enough to be his daughter. Indeed, part of her appeal to him was that she had known his eldest daughter, Mair, and reminded him of her in certain ways.

The strangest aspect of the book concerns Frances's attitude to Jennifer. Though she seems to have yearned for a child, she was hardly the warmest of mothers, pretending even to Jennifer that she was the child of missionaries killed in China, whom she (Frances) had adopted.

NOT SO MANY were killed in the terror after all — plenty survived, and the more deplorable excesses were over by 1939 (those murdered in killing cycles between 1940 and 1953 for some reason need not be taken into account).

His theory is based crucially on group size. Human societies, he argues, "contain buried within them a natural grouping of around 150 people".

No ten dollar words

Erica Wagner
THE POINT
By Charles D'Ambrosio
Flamingo, £9.99
A STRANGER IN THIS WORLD
By Kevin Canty
Viking, £13.50

Here is a drowned man, "white and bloated as soggy bread". Here are rich, country-club girls, "their hard, smooth bodies like car fenders". Here is the realm of the perfect image, so simple and precise that it is almost possible to believe it always existed.

His shadow is clearly visible on the stories of both D'Ambrosio and Canty — particularly in those of the former. In Lyricism Potter tackles Joan not much reason and pulls her down in the grass; in American Bullfrog, Freddie and Reginald collide "this, in its own way, was a kind of discussion we were having, a debate".

But this makes misjudgment treacherous: the final image of The Point has a writing-school neatness that a more delicate, less abrasive tale, such as Jacinta, avoids.

EDVARD RADZINSKY is a journalist and playwright, and his biography of Stalin has more dramatic flourish than scholarly analysis. Perhaps only specialists need now be concerned with the details of the career. Stalinist terror, however, does not yet convert into history. Responsible for it, was Stalin mad or bad?

After all, he loved his mother

David Pryce-Jones
STALIN
By Edward Radzinsky
Hodder & Stoughton, £25
LIFE AND TERROR IN STALIN'S RUSSIA
By Robert W. Thurston
Yale, £18.50



Stalin: left no confession

One of Radzinsky's new documents is the diary of Maria Svanidze, a woman who was both the wife of Stalin's former brother-in-law and a close friend of Nadezhda's. Evidently and rightly, she anticipated arrest and wrote her diary to serve as testimony in her favour, but still it catches the various dreads in the inner circle.

master plotter sitting through the night in the Kremlin and marking death lists, but enough to seem mad but sane by totalitarian standards. Lust for power is the key. Stalin is held to have panicked at the German invasion in 1941, and to have hidden himself away for days on end. Radzinsky has found the calendar of his engagements and the diary of an administrative assistant which establish that

Stalin was in his office for all but 48 hours of the initial period, with Politburo members and his generals. Rage was again the uppermost emotion, rage with his own mistaken assumption that Hitler would act logically.

NOT SO MANY were killed in the terror after all — plenty survived, and the more deplorable excesses were over by 1939 (those murdered in killing cycles between 1940 and 1953 for some reason need not be taken into account).

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including "Gitta Seron" and "And..."

Arabic text at the bottom right: "مكتبة من الأصل"

£250m Australia tourism boost

By TONY DAVE

WITH miles of open road and cars driving on the left, Australia and the tour operators which serve it have decided to target British holidaymakers eager to drive themselves as they try to maintain the boom in travel to the continent.

Self-drive holidays feature prominently for the first time in the new Bridge the World brochure to be launched in London tonight, while developing the state's roads forms the major part of a £250 million tourism investment programme announced by the Northern Territory.

"Just as Florida recognised the potential for fly-drive holidays instead of one or two-centre visits so, too, has Australia, with its miles of empty roads and vast tracts of country to explore," says Andrew Bogle, Bridge the World's marketing director. "Self-drive is a major growth



TOMORROW
A special 16-page Passport to Australia supplement will be published with *The Times* area with visitors able to discover the southern and eastern seaboard from Adelaide to Cairns.

is being upgraded to allow visitors to see the state's wide open spaces and learn more about its culture and natural history. The investment programme includes providing more rest, recreation and information along the roads as well as "theming" some of them like the classic American highways. The roads earmarked for improvement include the Stuart Highway and the Merenue Loop road from Alice Springs to Ayers Rock and Kings Canyon through the West Macdonnell Ranges. Access to national parks will also be improved.

The tourism commission's target is to persuade visitors to spend longer in the state. Britain is a vital market for Australia - 370,000 of us travelled there last year - and the campaign is aimed at consolidating that position. It will be boosted by a growth in air charter seats available to Australia next winter.



Biking by Ayers Rock: improving roads is on the Northern Territory's tourism agenda

NEWS IN BRIEF

FOR THE second year running, a regular contributor to *The Times Travel News* pages has been named Business Travel Journalist of the Year in the *Business Travel World* awards. Tony Dave received his prize at a ceremony in London last week. David Churchill won last year's award.

MANCHESTER airport has for the first time been named best in the world in an International Air Transport Association survey of 45,000 long-haul passengers.

THE CHALET girl is coming to the ski slopes of Chile. Passage to South America (0171-632 9889), of London, is to offer British skiers fully catered chalet holidays in La Parva, 25 miles from the capital, Santiago. The first departure will be on July 23.

THE Belgian Tourist Office in the UK has formed its own tour operator, Go Belgian (0171-491 1444), to capitalise on the short-breaks market. The Channel Tunnel, the growth of Eurostar rail services and a ferry and air price war encouraged an estimated 2.5 million couples to take a continental break last year.

ERRY BARGAINS

STENA Line and Hover-speed discounts for advanced bookings to France are due to finish this Sunday. Stena is cutting 25 to 40 per cent off published fares on its three routes from Dover, Newhaven and Southampton. The offers, for travel until October 19, reduce peak crossing prices from £326 to £199 and off-peak from £218 to £159. Details: 0990 707070. Hoverspeed is offering a flat rate £99 return for crossings after April 1 for a car and five adults from Folkestone to Boulogne and £129 from Dover to Calais. Details: 01304 240241.

LE SHUTTLE is cutting 20 per cent off all 1996 crossings. Bookings made by April 30 qualify for the discount. Details: 0990 353535.

IRISH Ferries has a £49 one-way fare for a car and up to five adults on its Pembroke-Rosslare route until May 22 for Monday to Thursday travel (excluding April 3 to 7). For Friday to Sunday trips, the fare is £59. Details: 0345 171717.

P&O European Ferries is offering £29 trips to Le Havre or Cherbourg from Portsmouth, based on two people with a car and including a three-course meal and a cabin on night sailings to Le Havre. For £39 per person, the company will add a night in a hotel. Details: 0990 980555.

AMERICA'S newest airport has found that smokers know how to spend money. In the opening months at Denver International Airport, the most profitable of the vast complex's many bars was one that allowed people to smoke. It took more than \$1 million in its first ten months. The figures make a mockery of the controversy which arose over the presence of two smoking bars when the vast Denver International opened last year. Against the predictions of the health lobby, the Aviator's Club ("smokers welcome") on Concourse B now attracts more than 2,000 customers a day. The bar is equipped with a

powerful ventilation system which can change the air four times an hour. There is none of the fug that afflicts, say, the smoking carriages of British Rail trains. The Aviator's Club is also kitted out with leather chairs and a generous supply of ashtrays. It offers smokers

a guilt-free environment with the easy companionship of fellow devotees of the weed. The faces of those inside tend to reflect a mixture of defiance and relief. Thirty per cent of American domestic air travellers smoke, while the figure for interna-

tional passengers is 40 per cent. "Travelling on an airline is a stressful situation. They need to light up," David Mostellar, owner of the Aviator's Club, said. "When you walked around the airport you saw things for the handicapped, the elderly, special

rooms for kids... They had all that figured out, but they were not addressing the needs of one-third of the people who go through the airport." The very size of Denver International surely adds to passengers' anxiety. It is no place for tight connections. For transit passengers, the smoking bar can offer the only friendly environment on a 12-hour journey. Mr. Mostellar has proposed opening more smoking bars at Denver, and at other US airports, where anti-smoking regulations (as for instance at New York's JFK) are rigorously applied and can lead to scenes of tense non-comprehension by foreign travellers.

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First

IN BRIEF

White fails* to halt decline in fortune

JIMMY WHITE found no release from the worst crisis of confidence in his career as he was beaten 6-3 by Ken Doherty in the first round of the Irish snooker Masters at Goffs, Co Kildare yesterday. (Phil Yates writes).

Hole truth

Golf: Bernard Gallacher, the former Ryder Cup captain, and his 18-year-old son, Jamie, were beaten in the second round of the Sunningdale. Foursums yesterday.

Botha banned

Boxing: The International Boxing Federation's decision to allow Frans Botha, of South Africa, to keep his heavy-weight title after testing positive for steroids was overturned by a judge in Newark, New Jersey yesterday. The judgment also ordered that Axel Schulz, of Germany, should box Michael Moorer for the title.

Nielsen blow

Badminton: Anders Nielsen, the English national champion, seems certain to miss out on a place in the Olympic Games. Nielsen has cyclic both knees that will require an operation next month.

Brown's feat

Athletics: Sandra Brown, who last year ran from John O'Groats to Land's End, yesterday completed 1,000 miles on a track in Australia. She took 14 days 10 hours 27 minutes, including time for sleeping.

Scotland indebted to Stillie's resistance

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

SIMON DONNELLY, the Celtic forward whose goal on Tuesday night earned Scotland a place in the semi-finals of the European under-21 championship, yesterday singled out the team's goalkeeper, Derek Stillie, as playing the crucial role in the dramatic victory at Easter Road.

After Donnelly's 86th-minute strike, Hungary hurled a mass of players forward in search of a decisive away goal, creating a chance for Krisztian Lisztes that was repelled in spectacular fashion by Stillie, the Aberdeen goalkeeper. "It was probably the best save I have ever seen," Donnelly said. "They really went for it but we managed to hang on and we all owe Derek a big thank you."

The save was made all the sweeter for Stillie after his experience in the first leg in Budapest, when he was pelted with tomatoes as the home supporters celebrated a 2-1 win. Donnelly's goal on Tuesday had put Scotland 3-1 ahead on the night and 4-3 up on aggregate.

result against a very good Hungary side, who hadn't lost away from home in their group.

"We are in the last four for the second time in four years and I don't see why we can't go all the way. The further you go the harder it gets obviously but this squad keeps meeting challenges."

His confidence is founded on a record that includes eight victories in their past nine championship games, the sort of form that will send them to the finals tournament — to be held in Spain or the Czech Republic in May — in optimistic mood.

Donnelly matched Craig's enthusiasm. "I don't see why we shouldn't go all the way in the tournament," he said. "We have put a tremendous run together as a squad and even when we don't play to our best, as happened against Hungary, we still seem to pull out a result."

"We certainly won't fear anyone in the last four and it is an end to the season which we will all be looking forward to."

"When we made it 2-1 I was thinking we would be going into extra time but then the chance came along and my shot beat the keeper. Scoring a late winner to take your team through is the kind of thing you dream about and it is probably the most important goal of my career so far."

His goal came two minutes after Jim Hamilton, of Dundee, a substitute, had made the score 2-1. Lajos Szucs, the Hungary goalkeeper, had threatened to make it a frustrating night with a series of second-half saves after Christian Dailly, of Dundee United, had given Scotland hope with an equaliser just before the break.

France Under-21s qualified for both the semi-finals and the Olympic tournament by crushing Germany 4-1 in Metz.



Customers enjoy the conviviality of Football Football, where George Cohen's 1966 World Cup final shirt adorns one of the showcases

Dining out on a slice of nostalgia

Former professional footballers running licensed premises? Nothing unusual about that, surely. However, the involvement of the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), the players' union, in Football Football, a new theme restaurant in Haymarket, in central London, marks the entry of the footballers-turned-restaurantiers into a wider world.

Football's answer to Planet Hollywood and the Hard Rock Café was conceived when Gordon Taylor, the chairman of the PFA, mentioned to Bobby Keetch, the entrepreneur and former Fulham defender, that considerable stocks of memorabilia were being built up. What was to be done with it all?

Rejecting a static museum-style presentation, Keetch and Terry McQuade, formerly with Millwall, put together plans for a high-profile food, drink and entertainment venue.

As the name suggests, Football Football is not to be confused with American-style sports bars. "In America, there are four equal sports," Keetch said. "We went for football only, because it's our most popular sport by a long way. We want this to be a natural forum for all sorts of football occasions, and so far we've had a phenomenal response."

Football memorabilia go on display in London's latest theme restaurant. Nick Szczepanik reports

Inquiries have been received from Madrid, Barcelona, Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro about the possibility of Football Football franchises. "This for us, not only celebrates football, but also gives us an income and a higher profile," Brian Marwood, the commercial director of the PFA, said. "People are happy to take money from football, but any profits from the PFA's involvement will be returned into the game at all levels — youth training, helping former players, even bailing out clubs that can't pay wages."

Marwood also hopes that Football Football will provide an overdue point of contact between players and supporters. The PFA connection should guarantee regular appearances by leading personalities of the sport.

What, then, will those supporters experience? For one thing, no parochial set-pieces celebrating Arsenal or Manchester United — or Crewe Alexandra or Rochdale, for that matter. "Football is bigger than individual clubs," Keetch said. "We won't

be selling their shirts or merchandising; we are selling a bigger concept, international and themed around the major competitions."

Not surprisingly, will there be live televised matches. "We are not in an American situation," Keetch said. "People there can watch events in the company of rivals and there will be no trouble. Here, things are different."

In other words, any "laddish" threat to the desired family atmosphere is definitely to be discouraged. The customer will enter through a players' tunnel, to the roar of a canned crowd and the sound of studs. After ordering from a menu that includes dishes recommended by well-known gourmets such as Lee Sharpe and Keith Gillespie (George Best, who will be a permanent animatronic presence, endorses a cocktail, he or she will have no shortage of things to look at while waiting).

Despite the absence of live coverage, a selection of memorable football moments will run continuously on 34 screens, and the memorabilia are awe-inspiring. If Geoff Hurst's 1966 World

Cup winners' medal is not sufficient, then material donated by Best, Eusebio and Alfredo di Stefano should be.

An upstairs mezzanine dubbed "The Fifa Room" even includes the chair in which João Havelange, the president of the sport's world governing body, rubber-stamped some of the innovations that have made the game what it is today — the penalty shootout, for example, and the Diadora League's kick-in experiment.

The sense of a shrine to football is heightened by a stained glass window depicting the 1966 England team; Hollywood-style footprints of players in concrete add a touch of showbiz. Keetch has no doubts that Football Football will be a success, both as a place of entertainment for the customer, casual or committed, and an enterprise to boost the PFA's finances and profile.

"The PFA says to its members: 'Here is something for all of you that you can be proud of,'" he said. "Players will want to come, and will see it as a way to help to prevent the poor from going to the wall. I believe in the PFA. We want to boost the image of the soccer pro, show that footballers are willing to put something back into the game."

FOR THE RECORD

Table with columns for BASKETBALL, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA), and BOWLS. Lists various sports events and results.

Table with columns for CRICKET, FOOTBALL, and GOLF. Lists various sports events and results.

Table with columns for HOCKEY, RUGBY UNION, and SNOKKER. Lists various sports events and results.

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TEAMtalk advertisement featuring a cartoon character and text: 'TRANSFER DEADLINE DAY ALL THE LATEST NEWS'.

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THE TIMES advertisement for London Broncos tickets: 'Save £35 on tickets to see the Broncos'.

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THE TIMES advertisement for London Broncos tickets, including a photo of a player and contact information.

Roe sea move

LEGAL

مكتبة من الرمال

First real test as new season starts to swing

FROM JOHN HOPKINS GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN PONTE VEDRY BLACI

of stepping off the aircraft at Jacksonville airport. It reads: "The Players' Championship, The Greatest Field in Golf". It is not far wide of the mark.

Constantino Rocca and Sam Torrance are two of Europe's debutants challenging for the title won by Lee Janzen in 1995, and Tossavee won himself some more friends when he told a reporter in a local newspaper: "This [event] is huge in Europe. When you get 40 of the top 50 in the Sony rankings in one place, it's a very impressive field. I've never been invited, so I was very thrilled when they asked me to play here this year."

Meet Sandy Lyle. His hirsute state was a result of chickenpox, which he contracted recently from one of his children, and, to combat this debilitating illness, he has been undergoing vitamin injections.

Lyle is competing in his eleventh Players' Championship and, as he has only twice before completed the full four rounds — and on one of those two occasions he won the title — it can be said that he wins every other time that he beats the halfway guideline. "I was absolutely zapped," Lyle said, referring to the chickenpox "but I'm getting better all the time."

Montgomery is awash with confidence as he begins a run of four successive events in the United States, which includes the tournament on Hilton Head island in the week after the Masters. "I am as confident as I have ever been," he said. "I am very happy with what is going on. There is nothing wrong with my game at all. It is as good as it ever was, if not better."

Agassi finds rhythm in Americans' march of progress

THE stars and stripes flew proudly in Key Biscayne, Florida, yesterday as the United States quartet of Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi, Jim Courier and Michael Chang marched into the quarter-finals of the Lipton tennis championships.

Roe sees need to move mountains

FROM MEL WEBB IN MADEIRA

FROM the ruins of a 1995 season that saw Mark Roe slide helplessly out of control in the lowest point of his professional golf career, and also reach the low-water mark in his personal life, came one huge announcement. His appearance in the Madeira Island Open, which starts at Santo da Serra here today, is his last before he makes his first appearance in the Masters in two weeks.

but I know within my own mind that I deserve it a lot less than when I finished ninth in the money-list in 1994.

"That only the winner of the Open Championship gets in while the top 15 in the US Open are invited seems utterly ridiculous to me."

Roe would do well to mind what he says about the men who run the Masters. The good 'ol boys down in Georgia do not take kindly to criticism, no matter how well-intentioned.



Roe will seek to end his spectacular decline in Madeira before the Masters in two weeks

Webb wonders at rapid rise to top

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN RANCHO MIRAGE

AUSTRALIANS need not despair that the Sri Lanka has cornered the cricket market. One consolation is that golf is now one of Australia's sporting strengths — Greg Norman is the men's world No 1 and another Queensland, a 21-year old rookie, has taken to the US Ladies' Professional Golf Association (LPGA) Tour like a platypus to water.

names in the game, in the first round of the Standard Register Ping event in Phoenix, the composed Australian admitted to being "really nervous on the 1st tee — for the first time in a while on Thursday." It did not show. Webb strode on to finish fourth behind Laura Davies, with Daniel tied for 24th and King missing the cut.

Nerveless is more the Webb style, striding the fairways with the look of a champion. She was rookie of the year on the American Express tour in Europe last season and showed no signs of inexperience as she won the Open. It did not look like a fluke.

SPORTS LETTERS

Centre of rugby excellence

From the Headmaster of Colston's Collegiate School Sir, Your report on the Daily Mail under-18 rugby cup final (Sport in Schools, March 25) raised the question of sports scholarships.

Colston's Collegiate won a fairly contested final 20-0 and played in a manner which should give heart to all England rugby supporters. The boys have spent a great deal of time practising their skills and have gelled into an effective unit thanks to the inspired coaching of Alan Martinovic and Andy Robinson.

Eyes on the ball in Sri Lanka

From Mr J. Garner

Sir, While on vacation in Sri Lanka, I watched the cricket side on television achieve a convincing win over England in the World Cup.

Between rows I looked out of the hotel window and saw boys and girls aged from about five to 18 playing cricket like English boys used to in the park. They could be 15 to 20 youngsters fielding to one batsman at a time.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY: The notice to terminate the authority of the Director of the Public Health Department, New Zealand, to issue licences for the use of motor vehicles, is hereby terminated.

LEGAL NOTICES

DOLOMORE LIMITED LAYTONFORD WINE HOLDINGS LIMITED: Notice is hereby given that the directors of the above companies have resolved to wind up the companies.

Unfair comments

From Mr Steven Hill

Sir, It was with much surprise and some anger that I read the comments of the new London Broncos signing, Junior Paul, about Askeans RFC (report, March 26). When he came to Askeans he was very inexperienced and we were happy to help him in learning about rugby. He undoubtedly had much potential but due to work and study he did not train regularly and was not always available on Saturdays.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

There are many situations on which you must have done your homework to be able to perform effectively at the table. When you hold Q x of trumps, it is almost never correct to cover when the declarer leads the jack through you towards the king or ace — generally speaking, when that happens, the declarer's trumps are strong enough for him to overtake when you do not cover.

Dealer South Love all

♠ A 10 6 4
♥ K 3
♦ A Q 4
♣ A 5 4 2

♠ J 9 8 7
♥ 7 9 2
♦ 8 6
♣ K 8 2

Contract: Six Clubs by South

In this hand, from the 1995 Cap Volmac pairs, South showed a balanced hand of about 14 points with four clubs. With this information, North speculated his side into Six Clubs. Zia Mahmood (with Michael Rosenberg, the winner of the event) led the jack of diamonds; after considerable thought, the declarer won in hand and led the jack of clubs. Zia played the nine, and that was the end of the defence.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Fighting draw

Nigel Short, Great Britain's top-ranked grandmaster and former world championship challenger, will share the lead with Garry Kasparov, the world champion, after four rounds of the Euwe Memorial tournament in Amsterdam.

White: Nigel Short
Black: Garry Kasparov
Amsterdam, March 1996

Sicilian Defence

1 e4 c5
2 Nf3 d6
3 d4 cd4
4 Nxd4 Nf6
5 Nc3 a6
6 Bc4 e6
7 O-O Be7
8 Bb3 O-O
9 f4 Ne8
10 Be3 Nxd4
11 Bxd4 b5
12 e5 c6
13 b5 Ne8
14 Ne4 Bb7
15 Qd3 Qc7
16 c3 Bb8
17 Bc2 Bc4

Diagram of final position

Improves your game with Ray Keene's book, The Times Winning Chess, published by Batsford at £9.99 (credit card orders 01376 32790).

By Philip Howard

QUARREL
a. Single combat
b. A quartermaster
c. A bolt

MACHICOLLATION
a. A shooting-platform
b. A hole
c. A musket lock

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Alekhine — Consulting Partners, Antwerp, 1923. The key to this position is White's fantastic knight on e6. Although he is a piece down, he now forced a quick conclusion thanks to the great strength of this piece. Can you see how?

Illegal approach verdict upheld

United must pay fine for poaching

By David Maddock

MANCHESTER UNITED have failed in their appeal against a fine of £20,000 imposed last month...

made their approach. It was, he said, a clear indication that the rules needed changing.

Alan Shearer, who was forced to withdraw from the England squad to face Bulgaria last night because of a groin injury...

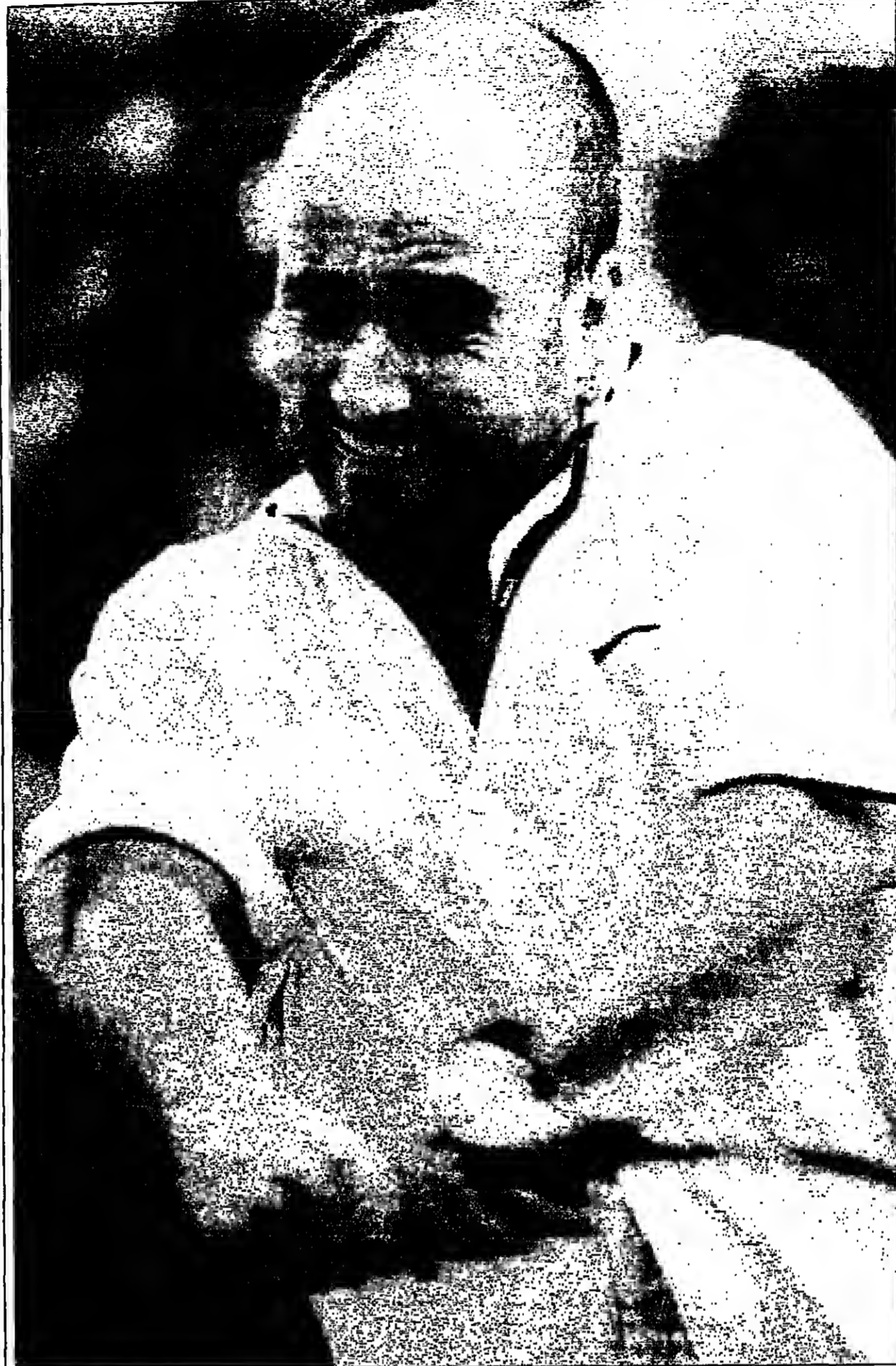
"We now believe that the rules should be clarified because they are a mess. We hope that will be done within the next few months."

Scots celebrate 44 Silex of nostalgia 44

League and are likely to be amended. Judged under the proposed redrafted regulations...

Blackburn Rovers took their spending under Jack Walker, the club's benefactor, beyond the £40 million mark when they agreed a £1 million transfer fee for Gary Croft...

Watkins based his appeal on the fact that Brown had already turned down an offer of terms from Oldham...



Andre Agassi, seen here during his straight-sets win over the Canadian, Sebastian Larreau, at the Lipton championships in Florida yesterday...

world No 3 added. "It makes no sense." Agassi's plea was supported by his countrymen, Pete Sampras, the world No 2...

Laboratory defends handling of Modahl specimen

By John Goodbody

THE Lisbon laboratory at the centre of the controversy over Diane Modahl's drug test yesterday defended its handling of the British runner's urine sample...

He was speaking after Modahl had been cleared on Monday by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) of any offence after failing a drugs test in Portugal in June 1994.

"The IAAF council expressed 'serious concern' over the way the Lisbon laboratory dealt with Modahl's sample and criticised officials for refusing a third test, which 'could have provided a final resolution of this matter'."

However, Reys said that accredited laboratories are required only to conduct a test on the A sample and counter-test on the B sample.

He said: "Under regulations, a third test, which was not foreseen, would have required a resealing of the sample in proper conditions. This resealing was not solicited by any of the experts present at the counter-test, including those representing the athlete."

He confirmed that the remainder of the B sample was not sufficient in quantity for a further test and added that the laboratory would offer it for further scientific investigation but not for a third analysis.

It was only after the second test had confirmed the exceptional testosterone-epitestosterone (T/E) ratio that the two hearings of the British Athletic Federation (BAF) were held.

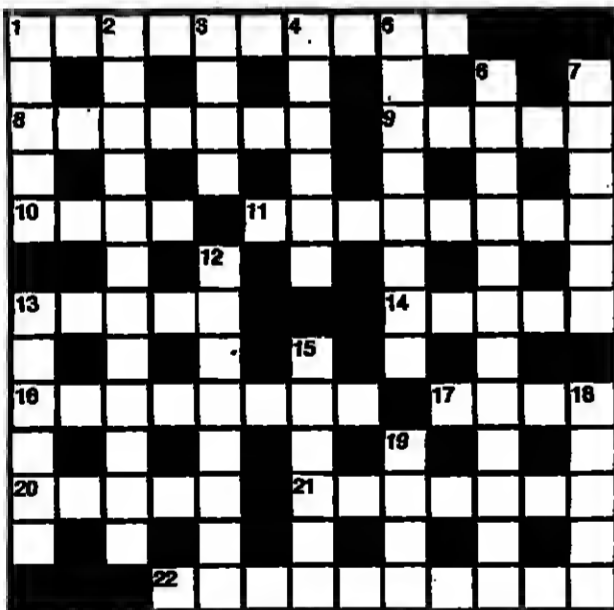
At the second of these, Modahl's advisers convinced the BAF panel that, because the sample had become contaminated after being left unrefrigerated after collection, the T/E ratio had been altered.

A third, different, test would have settled whether the high level of testosterone had been caused by the build-up of bacteria or from an illicit elevation of testosterone.

□ Anne Chagnaud, the French long-distance swimmer, has had a two-year suspension for a positive drugs test overturned on appeal. Chagnaud tested positive for ethylphrine in January 1995.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 741 in association with BRITISH MIDLAND



- ACROSS: 1 React with fierce anger (3,2,5); 2 Subject for discussion (7,5); 3 Quarrier bushel; eat like bird (4); 4 Be too clever for (6); 5 You, me and this share secret (8); 6 Be in dead earnest (4,8); 7 Adhesive; difficult (situation) (6); 8 Maple, has propeller seeds (8); 9 Refuse to accept (6); 10 Recommend (6); 11 Senior (member of body) (5); 12 Track, course (4)

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SOLUTION TO NO 740: ACROSS: 1 Musical; 5 Twig; 9 Curie; 10 Choc-ice; 11 Maltre d'hôtel; 12 Demure; 13 Brecom; 16 Folding money; 19 Maudlin; 20 Gusto; 21 Dusk; 22 Abolard. DOWN: 1 Much; 2 Sarcasm; 3 Chesterfield; 4 Lackey; 6 Whist; 7 Greenlin; 8 Mother tongue; 12 Defamed; 14 Chelsea; 15 Agenda; 17 Louis; 18 Loud.

Dunhill Cup may switch to July

By a Correspondent

ST ANDREWS, perhaps the most famous golf course in the world, could be about to lose the Alfred Dunhill Cup — unless the event is switched from its usual autumn date to one in July.

The world's leading international team competition — the European's richest tournament after the Open Championship — has been played over the Old Course since its inauguration in 1985.

Now, however, the sponsor, Alfred Dunhill, wants to move it from its traditional October slot to July as from 1997. There is concern that unless St Andrews Links Trust agrees, the event this autumn could be the last in St Andrews.

It is no secret that the sponsor has been eager to switch the tournament because

of the uncertainty of the weather so late in the year, and also to attract more of the world's leading players.

The last three-year contract ended on the eve of the 1995 event, although a one-year deal was eventually agreed between the links' administrators, the International Management Group, Dunhill and the European tour to hold the tournament from October 10 to 13 this year. However, it was seen only as buying time until a new three-year contract could be ironed out.

Players ready for opening test 45 Webb wonders at rapid rise 45 Roe seeks to end decline 45

Nicky James, the trust general manager, said yesterday: "We have been told that the tournament will be held in July in future, so we have to decide whether the switch of dates is acceptable."

Last October, the Dunhill Cup attracted around 35,000 spectators, but that figure could easily be trebled if the event were switched to July. The organisers recognise, however, that it will not be possible to hold the event at St Andrews during July in a year when the Open Championship is played over the Old Course.

Peter German, the tournament director, said yesterday that because of the cold weather in October "it was getting increasingly difficult to get the star players."

Leading players may, however, regard the event as a distraction as they build up for the Open, which is traditionally held the third week in July.

Kiriakov finds spies in the camp

To many in Britain, especially those with long memories, Bulgaria is no more than a distant land that has a penchant for poison-tipped umbrellas — to be used, occasionally, to dispose of those that displease it.

A Bulgarian abroad, still, conjures images of clandestine meetings in the dead of night, a sort of James Bond-style without the pretty female adornments.

Ilian Kiriakov, 28, is no shady East European, bearing brochures of water-pistols — "I have other things as well, trust me" — and promises of a good deal as long as the payment is in dollars. Kiriakov is a professional footballer and was in England this week with Bulgaria for their international match at Wembley last night.

He has, though, a colourful background. Not quite spy-thriller status, perhaps, but with sufficient intrigue to monitor closely his progress. He is over here, primarily, to

Russell Kempson on undercover efforts to help a Bulgarian into the Premiership

hawk his wares — himself — to the highest bidder. Kiriakov, like self-respecting footballers the world over, wants to play in England.

"He is small but very agile," a source from Sofia said. "He is a personal marker, you know? He is exceptional." Apparently, he upset Paul Gascoigne, the England and Rangers midfielder player, when he played against him for Anorthosis Famagusta, his club in Cyprus, in the preliminary round of the European Cup this season.

Kiriakov's credentials are impressive, mildly. He played in Bulgaria, for CSKA Sofia, and Spain, for Deportivo La Coruña and Merida, before settling in Cyprus and has won 51 international caps.

Times are hard, though, and Anorthosis are trying to cash in on their most market-

able asset, preferably before the transfer deadline today for FA Carling Premiership clubs. Thus, Paul Lenas, Kiriakov's Greek agent, who is based in Watford, naturally, is moving with stealth and speed.

"I think the fee we are looking for is around £1 million," Lenas said. "I have approached several Premiership clubs, officially, of course, and they have expressed interest."

Yet who are these mystery clubs? A mole in Sofia suggested Wimbledon, Rangers — the Glasgow variety — or Real Betis, of Spain. "Not the big clubs in the Premiership, more middle of the range," Lenas said. "Not Rangers, but Celtic once showed an interest."

What about Queens Park Rangers? "I think they are out

MORSE

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